

هنا امت الأول

BLANKETS & BEDSPREADS
To keep you warm & comfortable

MORA مورا

Available full range, with latest designs.

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS
Ali Alghamir Al Dabbous Sons Co.
Tel. 2440640 - 2445402 - 3920412

ARAB TIMES

BEHBEHANI WATCHES
MADE IN SWITZERLAND

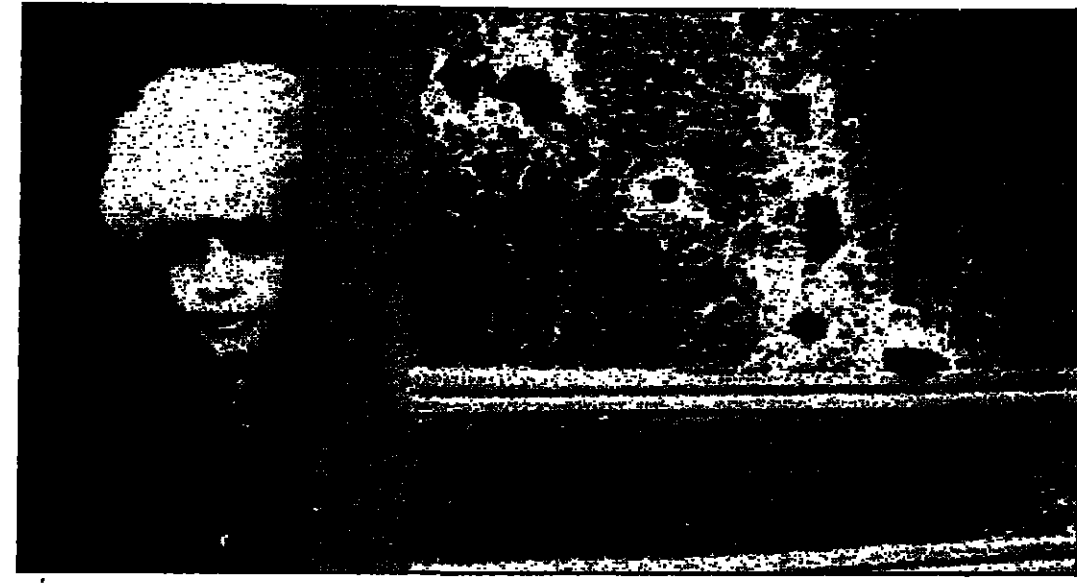
Elegance & Beauty both in one; exclusive designs to choose from; wide choice for men & ladies.

YACOB BEHBEHANI
Agents in Kuwait & Middle East
Sole Agent in Kuwait & Middle East
Tel. 242580
Sole Agent in Kuwait & Middle East
Tel. 2421131
Baharain Complex - Al Sham
Shawmou Tel. 2403954

NO. 7753 THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28-29, 1989 JAMADIUL THANI 1-2, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS



New President Ion Iliescu (right) speaks with French junior minister for human rights Germain Kouchner



A young boy looks from behind the bullet riddled door of an apartment block in Timisoara as life returns to normal in Romania. (Reuter wirephoto)

No return to communism, pledges Romania Give up or die, die-hards told

BUCHAREST, Dec. 27, (Agencies): Secret police gunmen who unleashed carnage on Romania in a frantic bid to prop up dictator Nicolae Ceausescu got a surrender-or-die deadline from the country's new democracy leaders today.

They were told to lay down their weapons and give themselves up by 5 pm (1500 GMT) tomorrow or face the same fate as their former president — a summary trial and a bullet in the head.

As the clock ticked away, and Bucharest residents settled down to what they hoped would be a second consecutive night without gunfire, the hastily-installed National Salvation Front government said Romania would never return to communism.

"Romania will be free not communist but democratic," Vice-President Dumitru Mazilu told reporters after a news conference.

In April we shall have free elections like we never had before and Romania will be free.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said real coffee went on sale in Bucharest for the first time in 10 years, delighting shoppers inured to cheap but foul-tasting ersatz brands.

Romanian television, which last night screened edited video film of the Ceausescu trial and a frozen frame of his body, today broadcast a new picture in black and white showing what looked like a bullet hole in his forehead.

No such wound was apparent in the original colour picture.

"We had to make an example of the tyrant," Mazilu said in response to foreign criticism of the secret trial, from the United States among



A young Romanian boy swings on the gun of Romanian tank in the central squares of Timisoara. People began coming out onto streets following the execution of Ceausescu. (Reuter wirephoto)

others.

The execution of Ceausescu, 71, and his wife Elena, 70, was carried out by soldiers on Monday after two hours of charges and defiance in a makeshift court at a military base.

The well-dressed ex-rulers were arrogant to the end, refusing to recognise the tribunal and admonishing the military prosecutors whose faces were not shown in the video.

They disclaimed any knowledge of a Dec 17 bloodbath in the western city of Timisoara and shrugged off charges of the genocide of 60,000 people.

Shunned Romanians, accustomed for decades to hearing their leader referred to only by grandiose titles such as the conductor, saw him publicly accused of genocide in excerpts of his trial shown on television after his execution.

"I am not a defendant I am the President of Romania," shouted the white-haired Ceausescu, repeatedly denying the court's right to try him and stabbing the air with his finger in a gesture those bullied by him knew only too well.

But the voice of the interrogator — who stayed off-camera, presumably not to risk later reprisals by Securitate fanatics — continued relentlessly with its catalogue of outrages committed on the Ceaus-

Bofors hopes to bag arms deal again

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 27, (Reuters): Swedish arms company Bofors said yesterday it remained hopeful that it would win a major new contract from India despite the New Delhi government's threat to bar the firm from further defence deals.

New Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, alleging that Bofors paid bribes to win a \$1.3 billion contract for field guns in 1987, told Parliament yesterday that India would do no more business with Bofors until it named Indians who took money.

Bofors' information chief Borje Johansson, asked whether the firm was prepared to name recipients of commissions paid in connection with the deal, told Swedish radio: "We have not had that type of discussion with the Indian government."

Johansson was asked whether Bofors still believed it would win the follow-up contract. "Yes, we hope so," he said.

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate variable to northwesterly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 1.33 pm, 11.10 pm

Low water: 6.48 am, 6.01 pm

Sunrise: 6.41 am

Sunset: 4.58 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 31°C 79°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 9°C 48°F

Ahmad: 12°C 54°F

Falaka: 11°C 52°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 19°C 66°F

Ahmad: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 17°C 63°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 55 per cent

Ahmad: 70 per cent

Falaka: 80 per cent

Vatican won't hand over

Swiss, French freeze Noriega accounts

PANAMA CITY, Dec. 27, (Agencies): US troops kept watch over the Vatican embassy today after three days of negotiations failed to break a stalemate on what will happen to Panama's ousted leader, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The Vatican said today it would not turn Noriega over to the United States and that no talks had occurred on granting him exile abroad.

Spokesman Joaquin Navarro told a Vatican City news conference the Holy See thought the matter could be resolved in "days, not weeks," and was examining all aspects of the case. He said there had been no decision on Noriega's request for asylum.

Vatican officials have said Noriega probably will be granted exile in a third country. But Navarro said the Vatican had not been in contact with "Spain, Cuba, Nicaragua" or any other country about the possibility of offering exile.

Navarro said it was "too soon" to start talks with third countries about accepting Noriega.

"The problem is who will give him (Noriega) safe conduct" to a third country, he said.

Noriega is wanted in the United States on drug trafficking charges, and US officials have said they want him to stand trial.

"We want Noriega here because he would cause trouble wherever he goes," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters today.

Fitzwater said Noriega can talk "until he's blue in the face" about his links with Bush and the CIA. "It won't hurt anything," Fitzwater said.

The US government, meanwhile, formally asked four European countries to freeze more than \$10 million in what it contends is illegal drug money stashed away by Noriega.

Gen. Maxwell Thurman, who commands US forces in Central and South America, spent nearly six hours outside the Vatican mission yesterday. He met three times with Monsignor Sebastian Laboa, the Papal Nuncio, on the street and spent the rest of the time waiting in a car.

Neither Thurman nor other US officials would comment on the negotiations.

US soldiers searched Laboa and his car as he was leaving the embassy. The Nuncio was allowed to leave after the search. US authorities had no explanation for the action.

US troops today pestered the embassy, moving a field of tall grass beside the building and shooting out all working street lights with a pellet gun. A company of troops also paraded past the embassy before dawn. Later, soldiers began playing loud rock music outside the embassy.

President George Bush said today that ousted Panamanian ruler's knowledge of CIA activities could not embarrass the US government.

"I think the main thing is he should be tried and brought to justice," Bush said at an airport news conference as he arrived in Texas for a six-day fishing and hunting vacation.

He said a trial on US drug-trafficking charges lodged against Noriega might result in "some release of certain confidential documents that he may

Egypt, Syria resume ties

Mubarak, Assad summit in January

DAMASCUS, Dec. 27, (Agencies): Egypt and Syria said in a joint communique today they had resumed full diplomatic relations, ending a decade-old rift.

A summit between Presidents Hafez Assad of Syria and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will take place during the first days of January, the prime ministers of the two countries announced.

The communique was issued after a two-hour meeting in

Damascus between Assad and Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki.

It said the two countries had decided to renew relations in the light of "current international developments and their expected impact on the Arab nation."

Sedki was the most senior Egyptian leader to visit Syria since 1979 when Damascus led most Arab countries in breaking ties with Cairo because of its peace treaty with Israel.

"Out of the close historic relations between the Arab peoples in Syria and Egypt and the brilliant pages of their joint struggle throughout Arab history against past and present challenges... the two governments agreed to resume their full diplomatic relations as of today (Wednesday)," the communique said.

The announcement left Libya as the only Arab state which has not restored full relations with Egypt.

The communique, signed by Sedki and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zoubi, said both countries firmly believed in the need to achieve full Arab reconciliation.

"This reconciliation forms the sound basis for joint Arab action to safeguard the interests of the Arab nation and its peoples who are thirsty for progress," it said.

Sedki told a news conference earlier: "The ice between Egypt and Syria has vanished and it has been decided to hold a summit between (Egyptian) President Hosni Mubarak and ... Assad during the first days of next January."

He said he discussed with Syrian leaders how to bolster relations in the political, economic, cultural and scientific fields.

"I can say that what have been achieved today in Damascus surpasses all the positive impressions I had when I arrived this morning," he added.

Presidential spokesman Jubran Kourieh said Assad and Sedki discussed how to develop co-operation between the two countries "to serve their interests and the national causes of the Arab nation."

The Egyptian prime minister said the results of his own two-hour meeting with Assad were "even more than I originally expected."

"President Assad talked very warmly about Egypt and recalled all the past and historic ties between the two countries," Sedki said. "He further qualified the period of complications as an experience we should profit from."

Zoubi said the two nations were discussing organising joint committees to supervise economic integration between Egypt and Syria. The two countries were united from 1958 to 1961.

Sedki, the first such high-ranking Egyptian official to visit Damascus since the rift, was accorded a warm welcome by Zoubi, on arrival at Damascus airport today.

Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam was in Cairo last Saturday, returning a visit to Damascus a week earlier by a Mubarak envoy, Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif.

Mubarak told reporters during a provincial inspection tour yesterday that he and Assad planned to meet, but indicated this would follow restoration of diplomatic links.



Assad (right) in talks with Sedki at the presidential palace in Damascus. (Reuter wirephoto)

China will continue supply

Missiles for Saudis

KUWAIT, Dec. 27, (Agencies): China's hard-line President Yang Shangkun, currently on a Mideast tour, said his country would continue to supply Saudi Arabia with medium-range ballistic missiles, Egypt's semi-official Middle East News Agency (Mena) reported today.

The statement appeared to contradict earlier statements from US President Bush, who said China had given his administration assurances it would not sell any more missiles to Mideast states.

Mena quoted Yang as saying his country, "was determined to supply Saudi Arabia with missiles, according to the contract signed between the two countries."

The Sino-Saudi arms deal was signed before the United States and the Soviet Union signed an arms limitation agreement, Mena said, without giving any details.

The agency quoted Yang, who arrived in Muscat, Oman yesterday from Kuwait, as saying Saudi Arabia had assured Beijing it would only use the missiles — capable of hitting any target in the Middle East, including Israel — in self-defence.

A Kuwaiti Arabic daily also quoted him as saying in an interview that "Saudi Arabia has promised to use those missiles only in self-defence."

"And as a demonstration of might," he added, apparently meaning as a deterrent.

Saudi Arabia confirmed in March 1988 it was buying CSS-2 missiles from China, but has refused to say how many.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies says in its latest 1989-90 military balance report that it estimates Saudi Arabia acquired nine of the missiles.

Filipino govt to be overhauled

Officials quit, give Cory free hand

MANILA, Dec. 27, (AP): All five members of the Presidential Commission on Good Government resigned today to allow President Corason Aquino to reorganise the government following a recent coup attempt, a commissioner said.

Commissioner David Castro said the resignations came after commission chairman Mateo Caparas and former chairman Ramon Diaz, no longer a member, met with Aquino this morning.

"The move was decisive," Castro said. "These resignations are needed to give the President a free hand to reorganise the government."

The commission's assignment is to recover the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Castro said 53 other people working in conjunction with the commission will be asked to submit courtesy resignations.

There was no immediate reaction to the resignations from Aquino.

Aquino has said she will announce a new cabinet in late December or early January.

A presidential palace official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said today that Aquino would announce new appointments on Saturday.

An overhaul of the cabinet was among the demands of some 3,000 mutinous troops in the Dec 1-7 coup attempt, the sixth and most serious effort so far to topple Aquino.

BEIJING, Dec. 27, (AP): Defiant university students rallied today at retired Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and his handpicked successor in an on-campus meeting with a senior official arranged in the wake of Romania's revolution.

The Beijing University students, in a two-hour meeting with state council spokesman Yuan Mu, sought China's response to events in Romania and hissed when Yuan stressed that China will not veer from its socialist road.

Low-protein diet saves kidney

NEW YORK, Dec. 27, (Reuters): Research has confirmed that a diet low in protein can slow the development of kidney failure, according to a report in the New England Journal of Medicine.

In an 18-month study of 64 volunteers with kidney disease, 27 per cent of those who ate a regular diet developed complete kidney failure compared with only six per cent of the people who ate a low-protein diet.

The amount of protein varied according to body weight but, for example, a 150-pound (70 kg) man would get about an ounce (27 grammes) daily, the equivalent of a half a chicken breast.

The work confirms earlier studies suggesting that protein restriction may help kidney patients. The reason for this remains a mystery.

"Unlimited protein intake is no longer appropriate for most patients with chronic renal failure," concluded the Australian group, led by Benno Hile

GCC makes efforts to end border disputes

DUBAI, Dec. 27, (Reuters): Six Gulf Arab nations are making concerted efforts to clean up a series of border disputes tarnishing the image of their otherwise successful political and economic alliance, Arab and Western political analysts say.

Closed talks on the problem at the annual summit of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman in Muscat last week were already bearing fruit, they say.

"There is a general realisation that these things have to be settled, and settled peacefully, if the GCC (Gulf Co-operation Council) is going to continue to make progress," said one European diplomat.

Since the end of the 10th GCC meeting, Saudi Arabia and Oman have agreed to finally settle the demarcation of their border.

Diplomats said Saudi King Fahd had also started a round of shuttle diplomacy with a visit to Bahrain last Saturday to mediate in a longstanding dispute between Bahrain and Qatar over some small islands lying between their countries.

The Hawar islands are little more than sand-covered rocks but they are believed to sit on top of huge gas deposits.

The diplomats said a solution may be to divide the islands between the two, or make them neutral and split any revenues that may accrue from future gas finds.

Many border disputes have already been solved. As long ago as 1974, Riyadh agreed on the sovereignty of a disputed border area with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

The move towards a final settlement of the remaining border disputes was summed up in a separate GCC declaration at the Muscat summit, which stressed the need to solve all bilateral problems by negotiation.

Chinese students rail at Deng

BEIJING, Dec. 27, (AP): Defiant university students rallied today at retired Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and his handpicked successor in an on-campus meeting with a senior official arranged in the wake of Romania's revolution.

The Beijing University students, in a two-hour meeting with state council spokesman Yuan Mu, sought China's response to events in Romania and hissed when Yuan stressed that China will not veer from its socialist road.

7 dead in Bogota prison mutiny

BOGOTA, Dec 27, (Agencies): Seven prison inmates were killed and two guards wounded during a Colombian prison mutiny launched on Christmas Day by inmates protesting the killing of Medellin drug cartel lord Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

The prison authority said in a communiqué the mutiny began on Monday night when inmates at the La Picota jail took 17 people hostage, including 12 prison guards and three wives and two children of prisoners visiting the jail.

The rebellious prisoners were angered by the death of Rodriguez Gacha, killed by police on December 15 on Colombia's Caribbean coast, the communiqué said.

The shooting of Rodriguez Gacha, alias "The Mexican," marked the biggest government blow against the drug cartels since the government launched its narcotics offensive four months ago.

The mutineers also protested the extradition of drug suspects to the United States and expressed support for Medellin cartel chieftain Pablo Escobar.

The prisoners had also demanded a meeting with the Colombian Justice Minister Roberto Salazar and other officials. They said that they wanted to be transferred to another, less crowded prison, Bogota's El Tiempo newspaper said.

The Justice Ministry spokesman declined to comment on details of the takeover.

The uprising is the second by drug traffickers at a Bogota prison in less than a week. Last Tuesday, five convicted drug traffickers died in another Bogota jail during a knife battle with a rival group.

Police and prison guards brought the situation under control yesterday.

Visions of nun stirs legal row

LONDON, Dec 27, (AP): The visions of a 16th-century Spanish nun have run afoul of Britain's blasphemy law for the first time.

The producers of "Visions of Ecstasy," a 20-minute video about St Teresa of Avila, lost their appeal against the ban before the video appeals committee at a hearing earlier this month.

The producers are now considering a further appeal, this time to the High Court, under a legal process known as judicial review of administrative procedures.

The common law doctrine of blasphemy dates to 1675, when judge Sir Matthew Hale said it was needed because the "allegation that religion is a cheat tends to the dissolution of all government ... and (is) therefore punishable in this court."

Managua reacts to surrounding of its embassy

Nicaragua halts US supplies

MANAGUA, Dec 27, (AP): The Nicaraguan government will not allow a US plane carrying supplies for the American embassy to land as scheduled next month, the official newspaper Barricada reported today.

Barricada, the organ of the ruling Sandinista Front, said that the monthly flight that supplies the US embassy with food, paperwork and other essentials, is scheduled to arrive Jan 11.

Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto informed US Secretary of State James Baker last night that the measure was taken because

US forces would not allow Nicaraguan planes to land in Panama and had surrounded the Nicaraguan embassy in Panama, Barricada said.

Civil aviation was halted in Panama when US forces invaded last week; US troops later surrounded the Nicaraguan, Cuban and Libyan embassies to prevent Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega from seeking refuge there. Instead, he went to the Vatican mission.

Barricada said that about 165 Nicaraguans and two Aeronica planes have been trapped in Pan-

ama since the Dec 20 invasion.

Quoted a Foreign Ministry statement, Barricada said that the US supply plane would not be allowed to land before Jan 19. The statement said that it would not land before Jan 26 if the Nicaraguan citizens and plane were not allowed to leave today.

It was the second Nicaraguan action towards the United States since the Panama invasion began last Wednesday. Last week, Nicaraguan troops surrounded the US embassy in Managua, in response to the encirclement of

Nicaragua's embassy in Panama.

US embassy spokesman Lou Falino, contacted by telephone, said he had no comment about the matter.

In a separate development, the Nicaraguan Army used anti-aircraft artillery to repel two unidentified aircraft that approached the international airport near Managua last night, a Defence Ministry spokesman told Reuters.

No further details were immediately available.

Negotiations on SA constitution

Church lauds talks call

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 27, (Reuters): Leading anti-apartheid churchmen today welcomed an invitation by President F.W. de Klerk for talks on South Africa's political future.

In separate statements they said they were pleased Pretoria was trying to defuse a long-standing church-state conflict and had recognised their importance.

"For so many years now the church has been told to remain out of politics. Now the state is admitting that the churches have an important role to play in the future dispensation," said Nico Smith of the Dutch Reformed Church.

In a Christmas message broadcast on Sunday, De Klerk invited the churches to join his govern-

ment for talks on the country's political future early next year.

De Klerk says he wants to negotiate a new constitution to give the voteless black majority a say in government while leaving the white minority in charge.

Since coming to power three months ago, De Klerk has eased restrictions on public protest, released political prisoners and has met several anti-apartheid campaigners.

Anti-apartheid cleric Beyers Naude, who also welcomed De Klerk's initiative, told reporters a discussion was needed on political rights for blacks and when they would be granted.

Black leaders have said there can be no meaningful talks on the country's future until apartheid

has been dismantled, outlawed organisations legalised and political prisoners released.

Meanwhile, an official report on political unrest said today two black policemen had been stabbed to death near Cape Town and Durban, apparently victims of radicals who condemn co-operation with the white-led government.

Dozens of black police have died since the mid-1980s when the country's black townships erupted in revolt. Many policemen live in guarded compounds.

At least 69 people, almost all black, were killed over the four-day Christmas weekend in violent crimes and political faction fighting, police said today.

Summit on drugs to go ahead

BOGOTA, Dec 27, (Reuters): The presidents of Colombia and Bolivia plan to attend February's anti-drug summit with President George Bush despite Peru's decision to boycott the summit until US troops leave Panama.

Colombian and Bolivian government spokesmen said yesterday their leaders wanted the summit to go ahead as planned in the resort city of Cartagena on Colombia's Caribbean Coast.

President Alan Garcia of Peru on Monday told reporters that he could not attend a summit while US troops were in Panama.

"I would consider it a dishonour for Peru that the President of Peru sits down to have a dialogue with the President of the United States while its troops occupy Panama," he said.

He proposed that instead the anti-drug meeting be downgraded to the level of police chiefs or interior ministers.

Colombia, Peru and Bolivia account for nearly all the world's cocaine. Peru and Bolivia provide most of the coca leaf raw material, which is refined mainly in Colombia.

In Bogota, a presidential press spokesman said that although Colombian President Virgilio Barco wanted the anti-drug summit in February it would not necessarily be on February 15, the date announced by Washington.

In La Paz, a Bolivian government spokesman told Reuters: "For Bolivia, the number one priority is to fight against drugs and we believe that the Cartagena summit is essential to redefine some concepts in the battle."

In Washington, US Secretary of State James Baker said on NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday that getting General Manuel Antonio Noriega out of narcotics and removing Panama as a major drug transit and money laundering point will more than compensate for any delay in the drug summit.

Pastor refuses trial

SEOUL, Dec 27, (AP): A dissident Christian pastor, convicted of making an illegal trip to communist North Korea, refused to appear in court today, demanding that he be hospitalised for a kidney illness.

A three-judge panel of the Seoul Appellate Court, postponed the hearing until Jan 12.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Damages ordered

TOKYO, Dec 27, (AP): The Osaka district court today ordered two publishers of weekly magazines to pay 3.2 million yen (\$22,400) for publishing a photo of Japan's first female Aids victim, one of the companies said.

An official of Kobunsha Co. said that company and another called Shinchosha were ordered to pay damages. The official declined to discuss if the companies would appeal to a higher court.

Japan's first female Aids patient died at the age of 29 on Jan 20, 1987. The Health and Welfare Ministry, which did not name the patient, listed sexual contact as the cause of her infection.

The magazines published the photo after her death.

Masterpiece stolen

MOSCOW, Dec 27, (UPI): A masterpiece by the 19th-century French painter Theodore Rousseau was reported stolen today from a museum in the central Russian city of Penza.

The work, "Before a Thunderstorm," was taken in a daring heist from the central picture gallery in Penza; an industrial city of 540,000 people located about 450 miles southeast of Moscow. It had been hanging there since 1891.

Rousseau, who lived from 1812 to 1867, was a leader of a group of landscape painters known collectively as the Barbizon School. "Before a Thunderstorm" is a prized example of his depiction of nature as a wild and undisciplined force.

Batteries fire

MANAGUA, Dec 27, (AP): Anti-aircraft batteries opened fire late yesterday at two unidentified aircraft that flew low over the capital, the government radio station Voice of Nicaragua reported.

The radio broadcast said the control tower at the Augusto Cesar Sandino international airport unsuccessfully tried to establish radio contact with the aircraft as they approached Managua from the north and the east before the batteries opened fire at about 9:30 pm yesterday (0230 GMT today).

The aircraft escaped, but the incident panicked residents of neighbourhoods close to the airport as firing continued for several minutes. And anti-aircraft tracers blew across the sky.

Rule against ban

BANGKOK, Dec 27, (UPI): Police ruled against a request by the government tourism authority to ban the Hong Kong-based magazine "Far Eastern Economic Review" for an article on Thailand's sex industry, a senior Thai police officer said today.

"We have considered the case and decided the article did not destroy Thailand's reputation. So we decided not to ban the magazine," said Lt Col Samphan Srettharaphon, a deputy superintendent in the police special branch.

India pledges hurried pullout

NEW DELHI, Dec 27, (Kuna): Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral today said the Indian peace-keeping force will vacate six of the eight districts in the North-Eastern Province of Sri Lanka in the next four days.

In a written answer to the Parliament Gujral said India was in close touch with Sri Lanka to ensure that arrangements for the safety and security of Tamils and other communities were strengthened simultaneously with the withdrawal of the IPKF.

The government had proposed to Sri Lanka that the de-induction schedule be worked out jointly in a spirit of trust and co-operation, he said.

Crime, debts worry Britons

LONDON, Dec 27, (Kuna): Anxieties about crime and paying debts are the greatest worries for Britons, according to a new survey published today.

The study found that in the past decade improved living standards had been accomplished by a decline in the quality of life.

In interviews with nearly 2,000 adults, the survey by Mori which is carried by the Times newspaper, found 42 per cent of those polled thought crime was their greatest problem.

"The magazine," said Lt Col Samphan Srettharaphon, a deputy superintendent in the police special branch.

The tourism authority of Thailand called for a ban on the "Review" because of an article titled "The Lust Frontier" in its Nov 2 issue.

Bush on vacation

WASHINGTON, Dec 27, (UPI): President Bush combined his diplomatic stalking of Gen. Manuel Noriega with a trip to Texas today for a week of family and friends.

"The President isn't going on vacation. He is going on holiday," said White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater. "The President never goes on vacation. He works every day."

Besides, Fitzwatersaid, Bush — while on holiday break in Corpus Christi, Beville and Houston — still will get daily briefings and updates on Panama, particularly diplomatic efforts to pry Noriega from a religious sanctuary.

'End monopoly'

BELGRADE, Dec 27, (AP): The Central Committee of Yugoslavia's ruling Communist Party yesterday recommended that the party adopt a proposal to end its 45-year monopoly on power.

Stefan Korosec, the secretary of the Central Committee, told the 165-member body that the party now is ready for competition of "equal political partners."

The proposal will be considered by the party during its January congress in Belgrade.

Ties resume

SEOUL, Dec 27, (AP): South Korea announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia, the third European nation to open formal ties with this staunchly anti-communist country.

Notes expressing agreement on the establishment of diplomatic ties have been exchanged between South Korean and Yugoslav representatives at the United Nations, a government statement said.

Visit to Thailand

TOKYO, Dec 27, (Reuters): Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama travels to Thailand and Malaysia from Jan 2-6 next week for talks on Cambodia and Asian-Pacific economic co-operation.

In Bangkok, Nakayama is expected to discuss with Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila a host of recent proposals on the Cambodian issue which emerged after unsuccessful Paris peace talks last August, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

In Kuala Lumpur, Nakayama will discuss Malaysia's cautious stance on the formation of the 12-member Asia-Pacific economic co-operation grouping which met for the first time in Canberra last November, the officials said in a briefing.

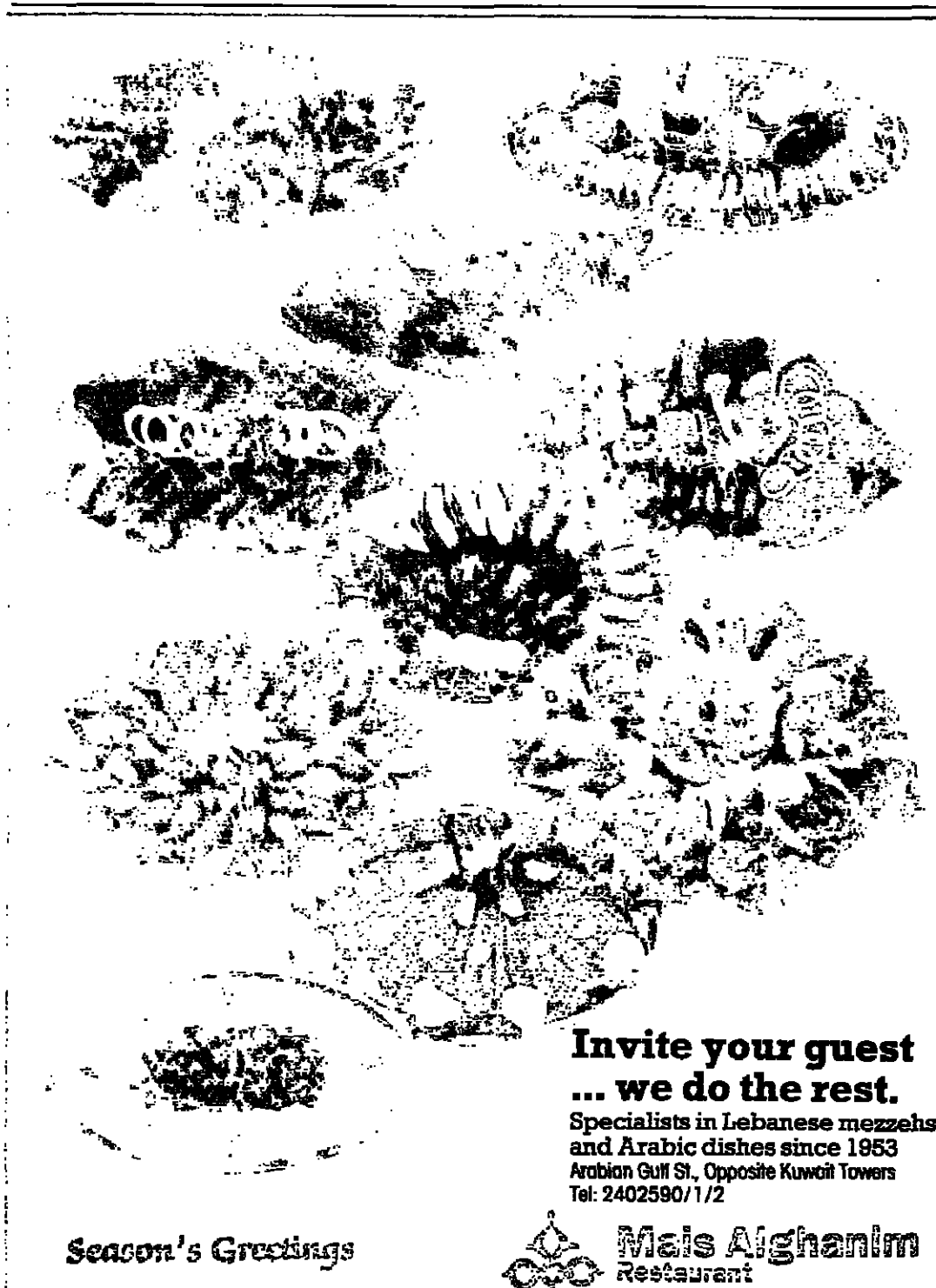
Typhoon Jack

AGANA, Guam, Dec 27, (AP): A weakening typhoon Jack began to drift toward this US territory in the Western Pacific today and was forecast to at least brush the island on Friday, according to civil defence officials.

At 5 pm (0700 GMT) Wednesday, the storm with winds of 100 miles (160 kph) per hour and gusts to 125 mph (200 kph) was located 165 miles (265 kph) east of Guam, moving at about three mph (4.8 kph) to the west southwest, said George Toves, a Guam civil defence officer.

Accord drafted

SEOUL, Dec 27, (AP): South Korea has drafted an accord it hopes to sign with communist North Korea for safe passage of people across the border that separates the two countries, officials said today.



Season's Greetings

Invite your guest ... we do the rest.

Specialists in Lebanese mezzehs and Arabic dishes since 1953
Arabian Gulf St., Opposite Kuwait Towers
Tel: 2402590/1/2

Mais Afghanim Restaurant

VACANCY
Computer Programmers

THE SULTAN CENTER has immediate vacancies for computer programmers.

Requirements:

- (1) Experience with COBOL, ICL-DRS and Retail
- (2) Experience on P.C.'s with NOVELL, TURBO BASIC and BTRIEVE

Please send a detailed C.V. to:-
The Administrative Manager
The Sultan Center
P.O. Box 26567
Safat 13126
Kuwait

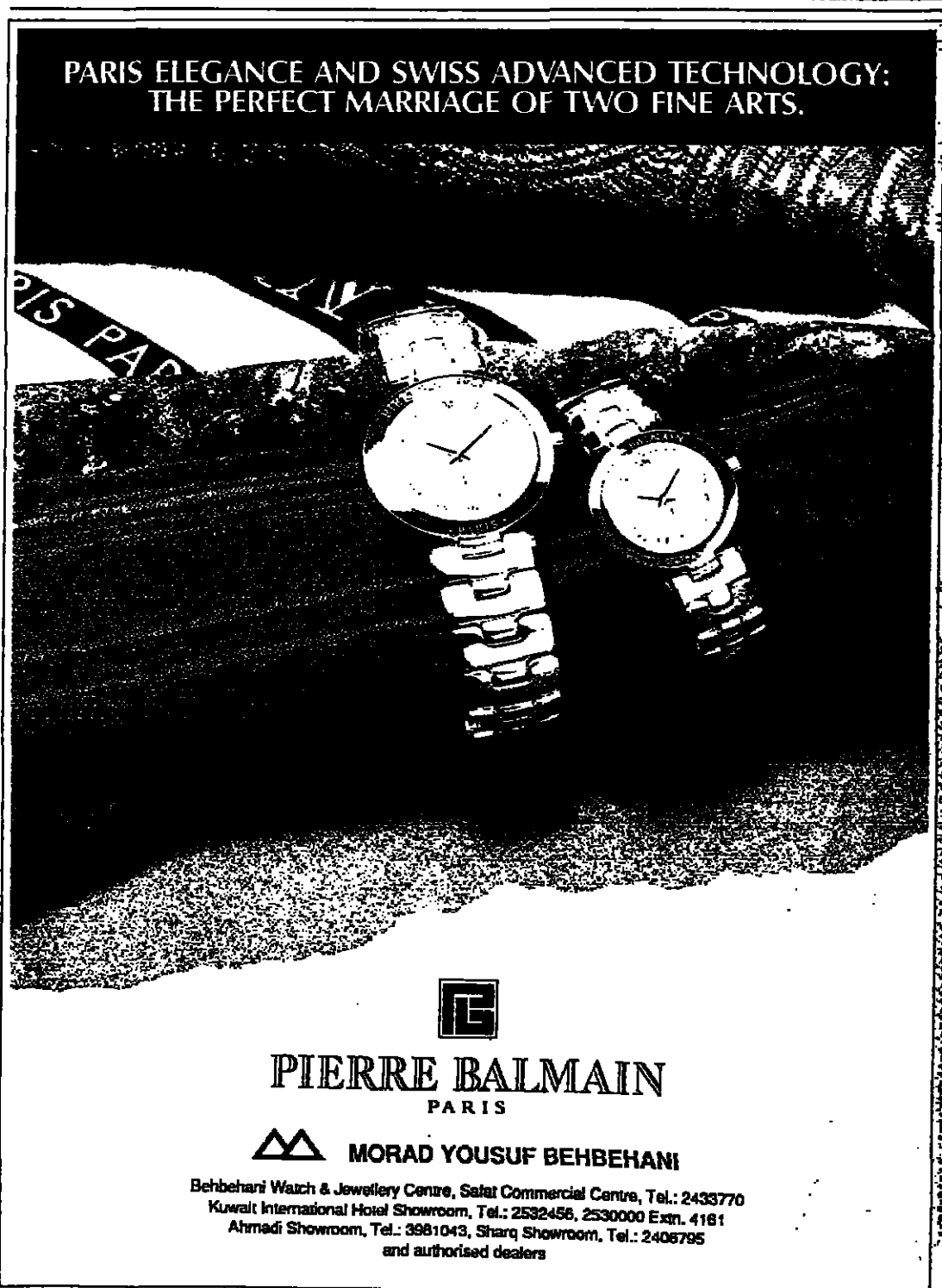
GOOD NEWS
PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

FROM **ASHRAF**

CALL US FOR:
WEDDING SEMINARS
SCHOOLS PARTIES &
OUTDOOR PICTURE TAKING

Kuwait Abou Baker El-Saddique St. - Behind Carlton Hotel Rasheed Bldg. - Tel: 2412180/1/2

PARIS ELEGANCE AND SWISS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY:
THE PERFECT MARRIAGE OF TWO FINE ARTS.



PIERRE BALMAIN
PARIS

MORAD YOUSUF BEHBEHANI

Behbehani Watch & Jewellery Centre, Safat Commercial Centre, Tel: 2433770
Kuwait International Hotel Showroom, Tel: 2532456, 2530000 Ext. 4161
Ahmadi Showroom, Tel: 3881043, Sharq Showroom, Tel: 2406795
and authorised dealers

هكذا من أجل

INTERNATIONAL

Beginning to settle down

Reindeer in US

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho, Dec 27. (AP) A herd of Canadian caribou is beginning to settle down in northern Idaho, though some have proven just temporary visitors to a project to reintroduce the reindeer relatives to the United States.

A few of the transplants and their offspring have died, and others have wandered north to rejoin Canadian herds. But the 50 or 60 that remain are showing signs of becoming a true herd, according to researchers from the Idaho department of fish and game and the US fish and wildlife service.

They are watching the transplanted caribou in a project costing \$100,000 a year.

Project co-ordinator Brad Compton of Idaho fish and game said it is difficult to track the wandering animals that are smaller than elk but larger than deer. Radio-tracking devices are attached on special collars, but only 18 still are operating, he said.

"We won't be able to do this research indefinitely," Compton said. "We need a quick and dirty cookbook method to go up and find out how they're doing."

Caribou brought from Canada have been transplanted to northern Idaho's Selkirk mountains during the last three years. Another transplant of 24 animals is planned late this winter.

Five collars have fallen off and

researchers speculate that collars on four others either have stopped working or the animals have wandered out of range.

At least five have headed north to join a herd on the Canadian side of the border. Another five are believed to have gone north-east to Canada's Purcell mountains.

Researchers are baffled about why some of them died this summer. "That's when the most and best forage is available," biologist Greg Servheen said. "Things are pretty good for the caribou at that time."

Idaho fish and game researchers who tracked down carcasses concluded some died of natural or unknown causes, while one was hunted illegally and another was strangled by ice that built up on its radio collar.

Another eight were killed by predators, including a grizzly bear collared for another research project.

Caribou studies now are focusing on their habitat and eating habits, said US forest service biologist Sandy Jacobson.

A feathery vegetation called lichens that grows on the bark of old growth trees is a major part of the caribou winter diet, Jacobson said.

Timber industrialists are concerned that protecting the animals could result in loss of timber sales and closure of roads.



Frozen oranges
Oranges hang frozen after farmers turned on water sprinklers when the temperatures fell below 32 degrees early Dec 24. A cold wave hit Florida causing serious damages to the citrus crop.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

ATLANTA: Paula Abdul who bubbled to the top of the rock music scene with a trio of hits in 1989, will turn her talent to the marketing of Diet Coke.

Michael A. Belinfante, vice president of marketing planning for Coca-Cola USA, announced that Ms Abdul would appear in both television and radio commercials for Diet Coke in 1990. Details will be released later, he said.

Soft drink companies frequently rework a performer's top hits for commercials, and coke will have three to choose from for Ms Abdul: "Straight Up," "Forever Your Girl" and "Cold Hearted," all of which the company said hit No. 1 this year.

Among several awards won this year by Ms Abdul, noted for her music-video dance steps, was an Emmy for choreography on "The Tracy Ullman Show." (AP)

LAKELAND, Florida: A sometimes sobbing Tammy Faye Bakker told a church congregation of her life without Jim Bakker and how she's hired an appeals lawyer to get her husband out of prison.

"Our lawyer felt we have a 77 per cent chance, praise the lord," Mrs Bakker said to thunderous applause at the Carpenter's Home Church on Wednesday.

Bakker is in a federal prison serving a 45-year sentence for defrauding investors of the PTL Ministry, which he founded.

Mrs Bakker defended her husband, saying he is incapable of defrauding anybody. (AP)

CHICAGO: Retired policeman Gerald Williams reportedly doted on his ailing wife, but police said he shot and killed her Christmas eve because he feared surgery and was worried he no longer could care for her.

Both authorities and neighbours say Alice Williams begged her husband to end her suffering, but he still faces first-degree murder charges.

"He was a very loving, caring man," said neighbour Marie Kitzmiller. "He took care of her from morning until night."

Williams, 67, appeared briefly in court Tuesday, accused of shooting his wife of 44 years in the head with a .38-calibre revolver while she sat in a wheelchair in the dining room of their brick bungalow. (AP) ***

CUMMING, Georgia: Six of the seven O'Kelley Brothers — who fought to remain together after their mother died, their father abandoned them and their home burned down — held a reunion on the set where their story is being filmed.

During an interview with the television show, Entertainment Tonight, the brothers were asked how the movie will affect them.

"We'll get some publicity, but in a couple of months it will be back to normal," said Michael, 15.

After news of their family disaster put the rural Gainesville brothers in the spotlight in 1986 and 1987, they received more than \$200,000 in cash and gifts and a contract for the made-for-television movie, Fire In The Heart.

A contractor also built them a four-bedroom house on the farm where they had lived in a trailer.

Last year, Terry O'Kelley, now 22, relinquished custody of his four younger brothers, saying tensions between the siblings made it impossible for him to continue as a single parent.

The film stars actor Rick Schroder as Terry, who was at his mother's deathbed when she asked him to keep the boys together. (AP)

NEW YORK: Hotel Queen Leona Helmsley rejected a plea deal on state tax-evasion charges, saying she was not giving up the fight to prove her innocence of similar federal charges.

"I've committed no crime," said Mrs Helmsley, 70, as she left the state courthouse on Thursday.

"I think that when the US Appeals Court reads the whole record they will vindicate me because I'm innocent."

Mrs Helmsley was convicted Aug 30 on federal charges of evading \$1.2 million in income taxes. On Dec 12, she was sentenced to four years in prison and fined more than \$7 million (AP)

LONDON: Sir Lennox Berkeley, an eminent British composer perhaps best known for his choral work the Stabat Mater, died Tuesday at the age of 86.

Berkeley, who suffered from a heart ailment and a type of Alzheimer's disease, died in a London hospital of a respiratory infection, said his son, Michael.

Berkeley wrote opera, chamber music, concertos and four full symphonies. (AP)

SAN FRANCISCO: Comedian Roseanne Barr, who last week called off her wedding, has postponed four live performances and cancelled a fifth because she is exhausted, a spokeswoman said.

"She is at home and has not been hospitalised," said spokeswoman Lisa Kasteler.

On Thursday, Barr ruled out of five shows at the Circle Star Centre in San Carlos, a 3,700-seat theatre-in-the-round, because "her doctor has insisted that in order to preserve her health, she reschedule all current engagements," theatre spokeswoman Susan Pfeiffer said.

Four shows starting Dec 28 were rescheduled for late February, Pfeiffer said. A fifth show, a new year's eve performance, will not be rescheduled, she said.

Barr, 36, last week called off her January wedding to Tom Arnold, a former consultant to her television sitcom, Roseanne. She said Arnold had entered an alcohol and drug rehabilitation clinic. (AP)

PHOENIX: Singer Glen Campbell has come to the aid of a 5-1/2-month-old boy whose doctors say will die unless he gets a liver transplant.

Charles and Julie Tenante of Phoenix are trying to get their son, Tommaso, on a waiting list at the University of Chicago Medical Centre. But they don't have the required \$100,000 down payment. About \$32,000 has been raised.

Campbell, a Phoenix resident, announced that he will hold a benefit concert Jan 9 at a nightclub and that the proceeds would go toward paying for Tommaso's transplant.

"You can raise money for a lot of things, and this little baby comes up and he does need a liver transplant," Campbell said Wednesday. (AP)

LIMA: Suspected communist guerrillas attacked two Mormon churches and a US cultural centre with bombs Tuesday, demanding US citizens abandon the country, police and a church official said.

The attacks came at midnight and 1 am in Chiclayo, 415 miles (670 km) northeast of Lima.

The fronts of the chapels of the Utah-based Mormon Church were damaged by the blasts, said Franklin Arroyo Suarez, president of the church in the Chiclayo area. (UPI)

Annual Polar bear swim

NANAIMO, British Columbia, Dec 27. (AP) Dave Lebiuk says he only swims once a year — on Dec 26 — so he likes to make it last.

That's why he was the last person out of the water yesterday during the annual Polar bear swim at this Vancouver Island city. The 35-year-old Nanaimo man spent 30 minutes in the 36-degree Fahrenheit (10-degree Celsius) waters of Desolation Sound.

"I started four years ago or more and I just keep doing it," he said as he dried off before heading for a hot tub set up on the beach.

The 196 participants who braved the chilly waters ranged in age from 2-year-old Mary Rice to Patrick O'Rourke, 76, both of Nanaimo.

Firefighters and a first aid team were on hand but there were no reported injuries.

Six people from the Nanaimo Kayak Club paddled around the swimmers as a safety precaution.

Effie Rig of Surrey and Lisa May of Nanaimo were the last women out of the water after spending 28 minutes trying to outlast each other.

Rig said she was motivated by a last-minute challenge from other swimmers.

Buchwald v/s Paramount
Plagiarising charge

LOS ANGELES, Dec 27. (UPI) Lawyers for Paramount Pictures Corp. were granted permission yesterday to argue that humourist Art Buchwald developed a story he sold to the studio by plagiarising the 1957 Charlie Chaplin movie 'A King in New York'.

The attorneys received permission to make their argument by superior court judge Harvey Schneider, a film buff who is presiding over the trial of Buchwald's \$5 million breach-of-contract suit against Paramount.

Buchwald, a Pulitzer prize-winning syndicated newspaper columnist, claims in his lawsuit that Paramount stole his story, entitled 'King For a Day', and turned it into the 1988 box-office smash 'Coming to America', starring Eddie Murphy and Arsenio Hall.

But Paramount attorney Robert Draper has claimed that Buchwald came up with a story concept by plagiarizing the Chaplin film.

Buchwald's lawyer, Pierce O'Donnell, sought to prevent Draper from using that line of defense, but was overruled by the judge.

"I'm going to permit the introduction of 'A King in New York' without having any (immediate) comments about the application of that film to this case," Schneider told the lawyers.

While conceding he had seen the Chaplin film, Buchwald denied the plagiarism charge when he testified at the trial.

"I don't recall one thing about that movie, not one thing," he testified.

O'Donnell branded the plagiarism charge "a damnable lie" and added that he may seek additional punitive damages from Paramount because of the allegations.

All three stories — Buchwald's, Chaplin's and 'Coming to America' — deal with royalty from foreign countries who come to the United States and have a series of misadventures. Buchwald's story and 'Coming to America' deal specifically with African royalty.

Draper is expected to incorporate the plagiarism charge in his closing argument. O'Donnell will also give his closing testimony.

Murphy, in a sworn deposition released Friday, said he and Hall formulated the idea for 'Coming to America'. Murphy said that he had never read Buchwald's treatment, but was aware of its basic story line and liked it.

Buchwald sold his story to their studio in 1983. Paramount dropped Buchwald's and producer Alain Bernheim's option on 'King For a Day' in 1985, after spending \$500,000 to develop three scripts out of the humourist's idea.


Prophet denies end of world

LIVINGSTON, Montana, Dec 27. (UPI) The leader of a controversial Survivalist church denied yesterday she predicted the world will end Sunday, but said God has told her that everyone should prepare for 12 years of "negative karma."


Elizabeth Clare Prophet, leader of the Church Universal and Triumphant, issued a long statement yesterday denying reports she had predicted the world would end on Oct 2, 1989, or Dec 31, 1989.

Prophet, claims that she receives messages from God through his "servant-sons in heaven, the ascended masters."


"Mrs. Prophet has received various prophecies from the ascended masters which say that the earth will soon enter a 12-year period lasting until approximately the year 2002, during which it will experience returning negative karma that could manifest as war, economic collapse, famine, earthquakes and plague," the church statement said.




He Will..




He Won't..




He Will..




He Won't..



He Will..



He Won't..



He Will..

Yes! He will invite me to the Sheraton this New Year's Eve!

Why not join us at the Sheraton? And enjoy a delicious dinner for the new decade...

We are offering terrific special New Year's Eve buffets at Al-Hambra, Hunt Room and Le Tarbouche restaurants. Plus, our Coffee Shop is open until 3 a.m. with a delicious range of gourmet dishes. Or, for those who prefer Italian cuisine, then an evening at Riccado's is guaranteed to put you in the celebrating mood!

On New Year's Day, 'Al Hambra' and 'Le Tarbouche' will be serving sumptuous extra-special buffets for both lunch and dinner.

The choice is yours - the pleasure ours. Make it a New Year's to remember, this year, at the Sheraton. Reservations recommended.

Enigmatic playwright of dark despair

NEW YORK, Dec 27. (AP) Samuel Beckett refused to explain his work, leaving it to critics and audiences to interpret, puzzle over and argue about the writings of one of the 20th century's greatest playwrights.

"I meant what I said," was all he ever offered about a body of work that encompassed the darkest of despair about the human condition in scores of plays, novels and poems that defied convention.

He did not write plots. He did not construct plays with stories to tell.

His masterpiece was "Waiting For Godot," the tale of two tramp-like figures, Estragon and Vladimir, waiting for the mysterious Godot, who never arrives. It had no beginning and no end, and its characters' business exist side by side. When asked for a summary of the play, the great clown Bert Lahr, who played Estragon on Broadway, said simply, "it's about two

bums."

The play's history in the United States mirrors Beckett's gradual acceptance by American critics and audiences. In early 1956, it had a disastrous tryout in Florida where two-thirds of the opening-night audience walked out after the first act.

Partially recast, and with a new director, the play opened on Broadway to widely divergent reaction. Columnist Walter Winchell vilified it. Audiences were mystified, and so were many reviewers.

Critic Brooks Atkinson called it "a mystery wrapped in an enigma," adding that "theatregoers can rail at it, but they cannot ignore it." But "Waiting For Godot," flocked after only 59 performances.

"It has taken the world a little while to catch up with Sam Beckett," said Alvin Epstein, who was in that production of "Godot."

"The source of his greatness is that he trapped into the universal

unconscious of Western society in the 20th century. He expressed something so deeply felt by people who were shook up by war, destruction and technology. He was not really a writer, he was a visionary."

Thirty-two years later, there were no quibbles about "Waiting For Godot" when Mike Nichols directed an all-star version with Steve Martin and Robin Williams at New York's Lincoln Centre. Whatever their thoughts about the particular production, critics and audiences embraced the play as a modern masterpiece.

Beckett's influence on other playwrights was enormous. Edward Albee, Harold Pinter, David Mamet and particularly Tom Stoppard, in his "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," acknowledged Beckett's hold over them in his use of language, time and images.

Beckett's plays are filled with

Golden Necklace Jewels Exhibition
Muharram Complex Ground Floor
Tel. 2423067, 2423068
announces, for the respected public, the availability of a fantastic selection of golden jewels and other ornaments, studded with diamonds and gems, specially for the occasion of Xmas and New Year. We welcome our guests Arabic, English and French spoken.

SHOWBIZ PIZZA PLACE
The newest and most unique family dining and entertainment experience is NOW HIRING
• Cashiers • Game Attendants • Clerical • Dining Room Attendants • Cooks • Costume Characters • Food Prep • Etc.
PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON
Al Pkajot St. Ras-Al Sabmija near Touristic Green Hill
Tel: 5726729

Christmas mishaps toll 345

CHICAGO, Dec 27. (AP) Accidents on US roads and highways killed 345 people during the long Christmas weekend, well within estimates from the national safety council.

California claimed the highest toll of 48, followed by 27 in Florida and 22 in Texas.

The Chicago-based council had said that from 320 to 420 people would die in traffic accidents during an official 78-hour counting period between Friday evening and Monday night. It based its estimate on data from previous years, seasonal weather factors and national driving safety trends.

During last year's Christmas holiday, 386 traffic fatalities were reported.

In Los Angeles, an argument between neighbours with competing Christmas parties erupted into a gunbattle over backyard fences in a spate of violent incidents that claimed at least 14 lives over the holiday weekend, authorities said.

A traditional game for President Bush

Animal lovers to protest quail-hunting

HOUSTON, Dec 27. (Agencies) Animal rights activists will be picketing outside a ranch in south-east Texas next week if President George Bush follows through with plans to "assassinate animals" during his annual holiday hunting trip.

Bush is winding up his first year as president pretty much the same way he ended the year before and the year before that, going back several decades: quail-hunting.

The Fund for Animals Inc., which said it has 20,000 members in Texas, sent a letter to the White House yesterday urging the president to skip his annual quail hunt at a ranch in Beeville, Texas, owned by Houston businessman Will Farish.

"Though the life of a bird may seem insignificant in the face of world affairs, to each individual bird his or her life is everything," wrote Dana Forbes, the group's Texas representative. "Thus, we are asking you to take a step toward the vision of a kinder, gentler world that you have offered us by choosing to spare the lives of the birds on the Farish ranch."

Writer Cleveland Amory, the group's national chairman, said in New York that activists planned peaceful picketing outside the ranch tomorrow and said he could not understand how Bush could take time in the midst of the Panama crisis to go hunting.

"This is not a violent protest. It's a reason protest," he said. "We don't hate hunters, we hate hunting. It's just as if I brought somebody into one of the old-fashioned men's clubs and said I didn't like all their (animal) heads on the wall, because they look increasingly like the elderly members. I try to do it humorously."

"To go down there and assassinate quail... I can't

believe that's the only form of recreation he finds enjoyable."

In Washington, Bush aides say they hope he'll have better luck than last year, when dry conditions made the tiny game birds scarce.

The president will spend several days at the 10,000-acre (4,000-hectare) Lazy F ranch near Beeville in south Texas.

"It's been a tradition for the past 20 years," said aide Stephen Hart, who worked for Bush as vice president and has been along on several of the previous quail-hunting trips.

In the past, Bush has hunted quail with a 20-gauge shotgun, dressed in snake-resistant chaps, heavy leather boots and an orange hunting cap.

Secretary of State James Baker is expected to be along on the trip. Vice-President Dan Quayle — whose name coincidentally is pronounced the same as the quarry — is not.

Bush has defended the sport of quail-hunting, asserting that the birds are not to be regarded as cute animals but as wily, determined quarry.

"These aren't animals — these are wild quail," Bush declared during last year's trip in a remark that angered animal rights groups. "You've got to eat. Our forefathers ate by harvesting game."

It seems likely that Bush and Baker will discuss another wily, determined quarry while on the ranch — deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Noriega's decision to go Sunday to the Vatican mission in Panama City, where he is currently in hiding, took a lot of pressure off the Bush administration.

Panama canal to return to normal today

Revelations won't embarrass US

(Continued from Page 1)

try to blindsides the whole justice process.

Bush said: "The system works, so I wouldn't worry about that." The president said he was personally involved in efforts to gain custody of Noriega from the Vatican Embassy in Panama, but he had not contacted either the papal nuncio in Panama City or Pope John Paul II.

In Washington, the Justice Department announced the effort to freeze suspected Noriega assets.

"We have taken steps today in four European countries to freeze assets in numerous accounts," said David Runkel, a department spokesman. Officials say Noriega hid at least \$10 million in the accounts.

US officials sent letters to authorities in Switzerland, France, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom asking them to halt transactions in the bank accounts belonging to the former Panamanian defence forces chief, Runkel said.

The actions were taken under international treaty agreements that the United States has with the foreign nations, he said.

The Swiss government today responded by ordering the "precautionary" freeze of accounts in two Swiss banks in Zurich and Geneva. Justice Ministry spokesman Joerg Kistler did not identify the banks.

In France, authorities froze bank accounts today holding about 20 million francs (\$3.3 million) under the names of Noriega and members of his family.

The Panama canal today opened for 20 hours and would return to 24-hour operation tomorrow, a spokesman at the Atlantic-Pacific waterway's headquarters said.

The Canal was closed after US forces invaded Panama last Wednesday and has since reopened for a limited number of hours.

Peru President Alan Garcia has called on the Organisation of American States to discuss the withdrawal of US troops in Panama.

At a news conference, Garcia said he discussed the idea with OAS Secretary-General Joao Baena Soares of Brazil, who called the idea "absolutely reasonable."

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei today lashed out at Bush for ordering an attack on Panama last week, the official Islamic republic news agency said.

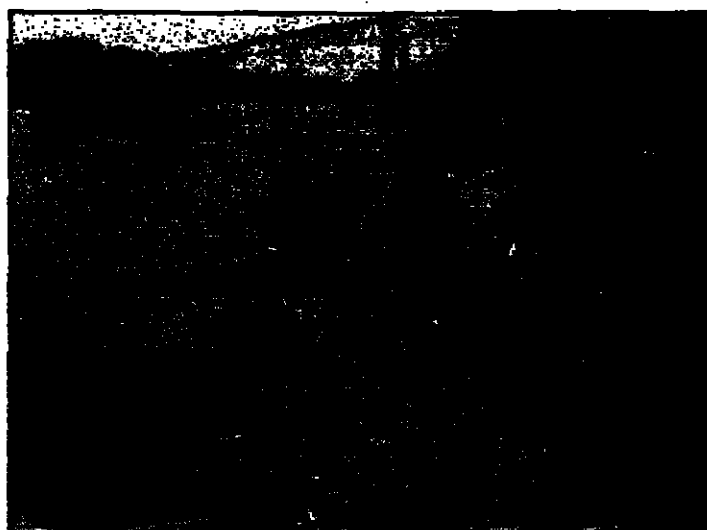
Khamenei said: "Despite his rather moderate approach at the beginning" of his term in office, "George Bush has proved that he is not any less arrogant in dealing with other nations than his predecessor Ronald Reagan."

Iran has also called for an emergency meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement to condemn the US intervention in Panama.

The call was made by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in a message to Yugoslav President Jancov Dvorski, the current chairman of NAM, the agency said.



A young child in a refugee camp plays with a toy gun in Panama City on Tuesday. Some 6,000 civilians are in the camp waiting for new homes after entire neighbourhoods of the city were destroyed in fighting as US troops invaded the country.



Ethan Scott, based at Rodman Naval Station, from Chicago, mans a machine gun while patrolling in a Navy Patrol boat Riveren at the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal on Tuesday.

Sharing refuge: Five members of the Basque guerrilla separatist group ETA are sharing the refuge of deposed Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega in the Vatican's Mission in Panama City, a local radio station said on Tuesday.

The four men and a woman were given sanctuary by Vatican envoy Juan Sebastian Laboa on the night of a US invasion last Wednesday, the radiosaid. (AP)

Del Cid pleads not guilty: In Miami a top aide to Noriega Lt Col. Luis Del Cid pleaded not guilty in court on Tuesday, a day after his arrest in Panama, and was charged with drug smuggling and laundering money for Colombian cocaine cartels.

Del Cid was ordered held in jail pending a bail hearing on Jan 2. The government moved swiftly to bring Del Cid before a US court. He ranks second only to Noriega on the US Justice Department's list of wanted Panamanians. (Reuter)

Shamir congratulates: Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir telephoned US President George Bush yesterday to congratulate him on "the latest achievements of the United States in restoring democracy in Panama," Shamir's office said.

Bush and Shamir also discussed the upheavals in Eastern Europe, and Shamir said that "these events strengthen the stand of the free world in general and the United States in particular," a statement from Shamir's office said. (AP)

Anti-US and UK protests: Thousands of people in Tehran protested yesterday against the US invasion of Panama and denounced Britain for endorsing the attack and for its treatment of Iranian students, according to the Iranian News Agency Irna.

An American and a British flag were burned along with an effigy of Uncle Sam in what Irna said was one of the largest anti-US demonstrations in the city. (Reuter)

Noriega ignored invasion warning



US Attorney Dexter Lehtinen holds a copy of an indictment, which lists the names of Manuel Noriega and others, during a press conference on Tuesday.

PANAMA CITY, Dec 27. (Reuter): The United States yesterday portrayed Manuel Antonio Noriega after the US invasion as an isolated, exhausted man on the run, wearing "red underwear" to protect himself and barely able to speak when he reached sanctuary at the Vatican Embassy.

The US Southern Command said that, after interviews with former Panamanian military officers, "in US history, it is the only time a man of his own thought from the moment US troops invaded was to save his own skin."

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Noriega had no control over the armed resistance to the invasion which began last Wednesday.

Before Noriega sought refuge Sunday at the Vatican's Diplomatic Mission in Panama City, General Maxwell Thurman, who commanded the US invasion forces, had said he believed the resistance to the 25,000 US troops was not disorganised.

A statement by the Southern Command said that just prior to the US attack Noriega was visiting a military facility in Panama's second city, Colon.

"He was aware of increased US air force activity but discounted the notion of an attack, passing the increased activity off as more US posturing," the communique said.

It said Noriega returned to Panama City on December 19 at 6 pm near the military side of Omar Torrijos airport.

When the military airport was attacked at 1 am on December 20, Noriega drove away from the area and evaded US forces by driving around the city in circles.

The US military communique said Noriega moved around a lot but allegedly spent most of his time at the home of a relative of one of his close associates. He said he avoided contact with other Panamanian officers, fearing a trap.

The communique said that while on the run Noriega lost his voodoo paraphernalia which he thought would ward off evil. It said that one source close to Noriega said the former Panamanian leader even wore red underwear

to ward off the "evil eye."

"It didn't work," one US military official said.

Noriega avoided capture for more than four days before he sought refuge in the Vatican's Embassy, plunging Washington into a morass of diplomatic negotiations over his fate.

According to military officials here, US troops barely missed capturing Noriega on several occasions, including once a few hours before he turned himself over to the Papal Nuncio.

The communique also said Noriega refused to leave Panama City despite pleas from close associates. It said Noriega did not flee to the countryside to lead guerrilla attacks against the US troops because of concern over his health.

Noriega made the decision to hand himself over to the Papal Nuncio, the communique said, when he heard the Lieutenant Colonel Luis Del Cid had surrendered to the Americans.

Del Cid, named in the same Florida indictment as Noriega, was flown to the United States on Monday to face drug charges.

Williams quoted a Noriega bodyguard who had turned himself in to US authorities as saying Noriega had no rest while US troops relentlessly pursued him.



This is the scene overlooking the Chorillo district of downtown Panama City near the former command post of Gen. Noriega the morning of Dec 26.

Noriega forces appear crushed but new president must prove his worth

PANAMA CITY, Dec 27. (Reuter): One week after US forces invaded Panama, supporters of strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega appear largely crushed, but new President Guillermo Endara still has a lot to do to prove he can govern.

Noriega, who Washington wants tried on drug-trafficking charges in the United States, is holed up in the Vatican's embassy in Panama City surrounded by American troops.

The big question mark hanging over the Endara government is whether it can stand on its own feet without American military support.

Diplomats say the invasion leaves Endara facing severe

economic and social problems and a tough job in asserting his authority.

He still has to persuade state workers who served the Noriega-backed government to return to their jobs and work efficiently for the new government.

A senior Latin American diplomat said Endara would have to work hard to overcome the stigma of being sworn in on a US military base shortly before the invasion began last Wednesday.

With only a handful of countries recognising his government, Panama will be regarded for some time as little more than a US satellite, the diplomat said.

To add to Endara's problems, thousands of people have been made homeless by the invasion, the streets are still lawless at night and many of the capital's shops have been looted.

Diplomats say Endara's main priority must be to reassert law and order. "They've got to get police on the streets as soon as possible," one European diplomat said.

The government has begun forming a new security force, the public forces of Panama, mainly recruited from former members of Noriega's Panama Defence Forces who have pledged loyalty to the new government.

In the short term, the upheaval

of the invasion has exacerbated Panama's economic crisis, a result of Washington's feud with Noriega.

But most businessmen are confident that the lifting of US sanctions and the prospect of US aid to rebuild the economy mean brighter times ahead.

Endara, who named a new cabinet which met for the first time yesterday, says his opposition coalition was robbed of victory in last May's elections when the Noriega-backed government annulled the polls, drawing international condemnation.

Many of Noriega's senior officers have surrendered or been detained by the American forces

and a US military spokesman said most organised resistance to the invasion has now ended.

A US Southern Command spokesman said yesterday that American forces were now engaged in "clearing outlying areas and stability operations in the built-up areas of Panama City."

But US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney cautioned that it would be a big mistake for the United States to withdraw its troops too soon.

"Having done the operation that we did this past week, it would be a serious mistake ... to leave the job half-finished," he said.



A US soldier trisks former PDF soldiers in Panama City on Tuesday as US troops continued their mopping up operations in the capital following their invasion of Panama. (Reuter wirephoto)

On the run without rest

He was exhausted

WASHINGTON, Dec 27. (UPI): Gen. Manuel Noriega had been on the run without rest from the moment US forces invaded Panama until he slipped into the Vatican embassy in Panama City, a military official said yesterday.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said the one-time dictator, according to a bodyguard who surrendered to US forces, had no rest. US troops constantly tailed Noriega. It was clear Noriega was on the run from the moment the operation began. He never was in command of the PDF (Panamanian Defence Force). He was busy trying to save his own skin.

"The US military did its job in bringing Mr. Noriega to ground," said Williams, adding it was up to diplomats and lawyers to deal with the next chapter in the life of the ousted dictator.

US forces invaded Panama early Wednesday, and Noriega requested political asylum at the Vatican embassy on Sunday. The United States is seeking custody of Noriega, but the Vatican has not said what it plans to do with him.

Williams described the situation in Panama as one of "increasing stability" as the police force is restored. He said the United States has flown in food and blankets for up to 13,000 refugees, and added the time was nearing for officials to think about when US forces would begin withdrawing.

"I think we are at the point where we can begin to discuss it (the first troops coming back)," said Williams. But he added it was "too soon to start putting a date ... and a number together."

He said officials were starting

to consider rotating new troops in to replace those now on station.

Williams also detailed the job done by the F-117 Stealth fighter, sent in to a base at Rio Hato to drop two large bombs. The blast was intended "to confuse, disorganise, to frighten" the two PDF units at the base, Williams said, and the bombs hit their target, a field adjacent to the barracks.

Disputing news accounts that the Stealth plane had failed in its mission, the spokesman said the barracks were not targeted, and attacking US paratroopers did not encounter heavy resistance when they landed a short time after the F-117 attack.

It was the first time the Stealth fighter had been used in combat, Williams said it was chosen for the job because of its targeting ability.

He said the two major airports had been reopened, at least for humanitarian flights, and said a number of US flights went in Monday and were headed to Panama City in the coming days.

Williams also said the number of weapons captured or turned in has reached 33,000, with some 6,000 surrendered in response to an offer of \$150 per weapon.

Sufficient, packaged military meals — known as MREs or "meal, ready-to-eat" — were flown in to replace those handed out to civilians by soldiers, and additional foodstuffs such as beans, rice and cooking oil were being sent.

Stealth used in Panama

WASHINGTON, Dec 27. (AP): The Defence Department yesterday said the new Stealth fighter was used successfully to strike an airfield in Panama and that military commanders considered but discarded other missions for the plane in Panama.

Spokesman Pete Williams declined to say what kind of explosives were dropped on the field or how many of the airplanes took part in the attack.

He also declined to say what other roles were considered, but said the attack on the field, outside barracks of the Panamanian Defence Forces, was the only use made of the sophisticated F-117 fighter.

The Washington Post said Saturday that unnamed government officials had said they understood the plane was tapped for the job of bombing hideouts of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega before he could get away.

Williams said the accuracy of the F-117, which is designed to evade radar, was a key factor in its selection for use in Panama.

"I don't know how much of a factor the stealthiness was," he said. The Defence Department earlier said that forces defending the Panamanian Army compound at Rio Hato were quickly subdued because US Stealth jets slipped past radar and bombed a nearby field to provide a distraction.

Williams repeated earlier defence statements that the objective of the Stealth plane was "not to hit the barracks, but rather, in fact, the mission was to miss the barracks and hit the field — and by nature of the explosion, disorient and stun and confuse and frighten, frankly" the Panamanian soldiers.



US troops run to the gate of the Cuban embassy in Panama City on Tuesday as a doctor delivers medical supplies. Cuban officials have complained to the United Nations that US troops surrounding the embassy are keeping Cuban diplomats virtual prisoners.

Manila scrambles to woo investors

MANILA, Dec 27, (UPI): Government and business leaders, hit by an uprising that severed the economic jugular of the already debt-stricken country, are scrambling to convince foreign investors the Philippines is still a good bet.

While Congress has armed President Corazon Aquino with emergency powers, the country's Chamber of Commerce is sending missions to other nations to ease doubts and promote business opportunities in the aftermath of the sixth and most devastating coup attempt since Aquino became president in 1986.

The nine-day rebellion by mutinous soldiers beginning Dec 1 could not have come at a worse time.

Just when the Philippines had finally started to shake off the "sick man" of Southeast Asia label, the rebels took over the premier financial district, headquarters of nine out of 10 of the nation's major corporations, and halted stock market transactions for a week.

With snipers positioned on the roofs of banks, luxury hotels and apartments, the

soldiers who failed in their primary aim of toppling Aquino succeeded in scaring off investors.

Economic Planning Secretary Jesus Estanislao said the Philippines stands to lose \$1.4 billion in output of goods and services, with the anticipated losses possibly recoverable if Aquino acts quickly to boost productivity and restore investor confidence.

The growth target for next year has been lowered from 6.4 per cent to 5 per cent.

With the Philippines banking on foreign funds as the No. 1 source of growth in the 1990s, officials are desperately looking to the United States, Japan and Taiwan to confirm they're not backing out.

Particularly welcome was assurances from Elliot Richardson, special representative of President Bush, informing Aquino the United States will continue to support the economic recovery programme in the country burdened by a \$28 billion foreign debt.

But Richardson said Aquino must quickly overcome the damage to investor confidence.

"In this task she will have the strong support of the United States and the 20 other countries," helping revitalize the economy with \$5 billion over 5 years, he said.

The embattled Aquino said she declared the state of national emergency "to ensure public safety and to prevent economic dislocation" following the rebellion.

China replaces its top planning expert

Zou tipped rising star

BEIJING, Dec 27, (AP): Vice Premier Yao Yilin, an economic expert who helped steer China back towards more central planning, has been replaced as head of the powerful state planning commission, it was announced yesterday.

The National People's Congress, China's Parliament, appointed Zou Jiahua, a technocrat who headed the machine building and electronics industry, as the new minister of the planning commission.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted Premier Li Peng as telling the NPC that Yao was being asked to step down so he could concentrate on helping the premier with the work of the state council, or cabinet.

The move did not appear to be a sign that Yao was in dis-favour.

Yao, 72, moved into prominence this year with his economic policies committing the nation to a lengthy period of austerity, restoration of state controls over many aspects of the economy and a halt to market-oriented economic reforms.

He has worked closely with Li, another economic conservative who has sought to reverse the fast pace of economic reforms favoured by ousted Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang.

Yao, together with Li, is one of six members of the party's decision-making Politburo Standing Committee.

The personnel change may be designed to groom Zou, a rising star mentioned as a future member of the politburo.

The full politburo, previously composed of 17 members, is now down to 14 after the death in April of former party chief Hu Yaobang and the ouster of moderates Zhao and Hu Qili in June following the military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

Zou, 63, like Li, studied in the Soviet Union in the 1950s and has a background in heavy industry. He also has close connections with China's military, having served as deputy director of a state council office in charge of the national defence industry and as minister of ordnance industry.

An official newspaper reported yesterday that a senior trade union official linked to liberal policies repudiated by China's current hard-line leaders had been removed from his post.

Zhu Houze, 58, was dismissed Monday as vice-president and first-secretary of the state-controlled All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the 'Workers' Daily (Gongren Ribao) said.



In Mao style

A Beijing resident, dressed in a Mao style suit, walks out of the new Pierre Cardin boutique in Beijing.

The Paris fashion house which opened in Beijing last week has become a popular attraction with shoppers although few are capable of paying the high prices. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fakes beat the real in market

BANGKOK, Dec 27, (AP): To make a fashion statement in Bangkok, purchase a genuine Soviet wristwatch for \$110.89.

Another version of the Soviet Army watch can be had for considerably less — \$13.62 — but this comes from Taiwan, not Moscow.

When the real Soviet timepiece went on sale Dec 1 in Bangkok, counterfeit versions already had been on sale in the streets for several months.

Sill, Charuchai Kheangrakhoon, manager of Zuo-Ton International, which markets the genuine Soviet Army watch in Thailand, said he is not worried by the flood of cheap imitations.

"It is not a problem — you can tell which is genuine and which is not — there is a big difference in quality."

He said he expected sales of the real Soviet Army watch to top 10,000 in the first year.

"It is a hot fashion item," he said.

The fakes became available in Thailand partly because of the big demand for them after the Soviet Army watch was launched in Europe and the United States.

"People couldn't get the real one here so they brought in the fake ones," Kheangrakhoon said.

The Soviet watch is hardly the only counterfeit item that can be found on the streets of Bangkok. It vies with cheap imitations of Rolex and Cartier watches as well as hundreds of other prestige products including old favorites like Lora Vuitton luggage and Lacoste polo shirts.

Most of these counterfeit products are made domestically but some imitations watches or watch parts are smuggled in from Taiwan.

As one Western businessman living in Thailand remarked, "copyright here basically means 'the right to copy'."

At first glance, the imitation Soviet Army watch looks almost identical to the real thing. But on closer examination, it lacks the bulk of the genuine item and its stamp of authenticity on the reverse side.

Lanka violence claims 32 lives

Raid on wedding party

COLOMBO, Dec 27, (AP): Suspected Sinhalese radicals stormed a wedding party in a southern Sri Lankan village and stabbed four guests to death, military officials said today.

It said extremists shot to death two supporters of the governing United National Party and a businessman in Matara district.

Sinhalese extremists started assassinating government officials and supporters in 1987 to protest a peace accord designed to end an insurrection by militants in the Tamil ethnic minority.

The officials said 32 more people — including Sinhalese extremists — were killed since yesterday in violence inspired by the Sinhalese militants of the People's Liberation Front.

The wedding party killings occurred late yesterday in Urubokke village in Matara district, 135 kilometres (85 miles) south of Colombo, the officials said.

Ultra-nationalist Sinhalese claimed the Sinhalese-controlled government was making too many concessions to the Tamils, who had been battling for a separate homeland since 1983.

At least 11,000 people have died in the Tamil insurrection, while another 6,000 have been killed in the Sinhalese backlash.

The attackers accused the victims, all Sinhalese men, of being government spies before stabbing them, the officials said. They said the militants escaped.

In Tangalle city, near Matara in southern Sri Lanka, extremists blew up a truck today, killing three policemen and a soldier, the officials said without giving details.

More than 150 members of an outlawed Tamil militia surrendered to the Sri Lankan army after 44 of their comrades were killed by Tamil guerrillas, officials said.

After a three-day trek through jungles in eastern Sri Lanka to escape pursuing rivals, the 155 weary members of the outlawed Tamil National Army turned themselves in to the Sri Lankan army at the northeastern town of Nidamwela on Monday.

They were taken under protective custody and brought to a makeshift detention centre in Polonnaruwa, about 100 miles (165 kilometres) northeast of Colombo, the capital, military officials said.

One of the militia members at the detention centre told reporters that the camp had been under siege by Tamil Tigers since last week.

They were taken under protective custody and brought to a makeshift detention centre in Polonnaruwa, about 100 miles (165 kilometres) northeast of Colombo, the capital, military officials said.

One of the militia members at the detention centre told reporters that the camp had been under siege by Tamil Tigers since last week.

Japanese gets jail and fine

300 reptiles in suitcase

BANGKOK, Dec 27, (AP): A Japanese man who tried to smuggle nearly 300 turtles and lizards of endangered species to Japan in his suitcases was arrested at Bangkok's International Airport, a Thai police officer said today.

Zookeeper's arm bitten off by Bengal tiger

TOKYO, Dec 27, (AP): A royal Bengal tiger bit off a 19-year-old woman zookeeper's arm as she was giving it water with a hose from outside its cage at a northern Japan safari park, police said today.

Capt Paiboon Arinchai said Tsunoyoshi Shirawa, 20, of Shizuoka prefecture, was arrested Sunday after authorities discovered that his four suitcases contained turtles and oriental water lizards.

Shirawa told police that he had brought the animals from Malaysia and stopped in Bangkok to visit a friend en route to Japan.

A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the right arm of Kinie Nagasaki was bitten off at the elbow yesterday at the Toboku safari park 220 in Fukushima prefecture (state), 240 kms (150 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

Ms Nagasaki, who had been feeding the tiger and cleaning its cage daily since April 1, told police from her hospital bed that she was giving the animal water from outside the cage, but declined to discuss details, the official said.

Charged with possession of endangered wildlife, Shirawa was sentenced Monday to three months in prison and fined 2,500 baht (\$100). The prison sentence was suspended.

Paiboon said the animals were tightly packed into the baggage and bound to prevent them from making noise and moving. Two turtles and one lizard died, he said.

The official said police believed she might have put her hand into the cage as she guided the hose.

that those animals were protected by law.

The animals included 185 giant lizards, three spiny hill turtles, 50 elongated tortoises, 27 big-headed turtles and 18 giant yellow tortoises.

The police source said Shirawa told police that he did not know

Boonlert Angsirijsida, a forestry department official in charge of wildlife conservation, said Japan was a major market for wildlife from Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and South American countries.

Cambodia war heats up, Khmer cuts off routes

BANGKOK, Dec 27, (Reuters): Khmer Rouge guerrillas said they have cut Cambodian government supply routes to the war-racked northwest as fighting intensifies in the country three months after the Vietnamese troop withdrawal.

Fiery Dada Amir dies of illness

ISLAMABAD, Dec 27, (Kuna): Dada Amir Haider one of the best known revolutionaries and freedom fighters of Indo-Pak sub-continent died in Islamabad yesterday after protracted illness. He was 90.

Dada Amir Haider had fought continuously against oppression and tyranny. He had been in the vanguard of the forces striving for establishing exploitation-free and socialist system.

He went to Moscow in 1926 and had the distinction of sharing the classroom with such great Third World leaders as Che Guevara, Chou Enlai and M.N. Roy.

On his return to India in 1928 he was charged with hatching a conspiracy against the British colonial rule. He was deeply involved in the independence movement and went underground for the purpose of organising a revolutionary movement. He was arrested in 1929 and spent many years in jail.


He was again put behind bars or confined to his native village for more than a decade even after the independence of Pakistan.

He was born near Kahuta in a peasant family. He described the ordinary people as members of his family and always worked for their uplift.

Before going to the Soviet Union, he had received an engineering degree and a pilot license from the United States. He was even given citizenship of the United States in recognition of his services aboard American ships during World War I.


Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in her message of condolence said: "Dada Amir Haider was a great freedom fighter and revolutionary who suffered for the cause of the poor and fought against the forces of tyranny and suppression. The late Dada Amir Haider devoted his life to the welfare and betterment of the working classes."

Dada Amir Haider was a bachelor.



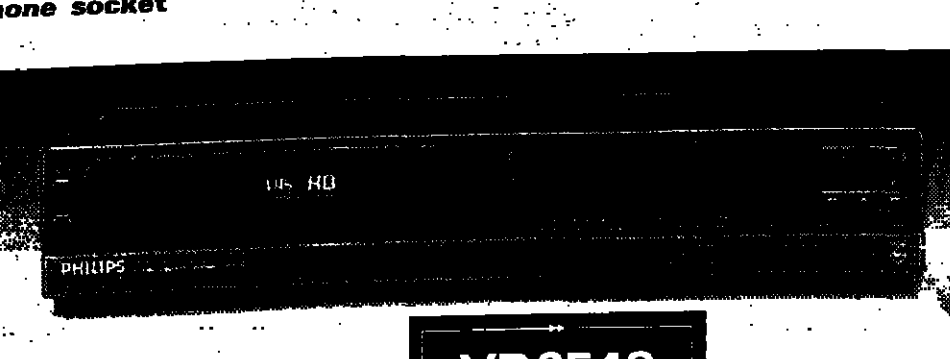
PHILIPS

TECHNOLOGY WITH STYLE. FROM PHILIPS.



World System coloured TV 21" 21CN4460

- Full remote control
- Modern symmetrical styling
- Flat square dark glass picture tube
- Hidden controls
- Advanced electronic tuning (VST) system provides 60 pre-selections
- Headphone socket
- On screen display
- Auto switch-off timer
- 4W 2-way sound output
- Personal preference setting
- Vivo connection
- Alternate programme viewing switch.



VR6548 World-system 4-Head Deluxe VHS Video Recorder

- No down payment
- No guarantor
- First installment due in 3 months
- Installments upto 18 months

Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons W.L.L.

Sharq 2425560 • Field Al Salom 2425978 • Hawala 2611552 • Al Rind 2647819 • Salimiyah 2226285 • Al Rai 4781527 • Fahsah 2010162 • Fawaziyah 4715345 • Salsat 2442853 • Al Muhanna Electronics Center 2418852 • Wholesale 4843988 ext. 2422-2423-2197

Also available at our dealers and Bu Khameneh Electronics (New Street) 2407445

Did you win any of our instant gifts?

Don't miss out on the golden opportunity.

Final draw held on 12.1.90

Final Draw Prizes



60 grams 18 carats



12 Pure golden egg



Isuzu Gemini



Washing Machine W-01



Television 29" CT 1999

22 killed in two attacks

MANILA, Dec 27, (AP): At least 22 people were killed in two separate attacks by suspected communist rebels after a 48-hour holiday ceasefire ended, the military reported today.

An undetermined number of communist New People's Army rebels raided a government outpost early yesterday in the town of Atimonan in Quezon province, about 110 kms (70 miles) southeast of Manila.

In Zamboanga Del Sur province, another band of about 100 guerrillas attacked a militia outpost in the village of upper landing, about 830 kms (470 miles) southeast of Manila.

UNITED POULTRY

HUGO Sales department Tel: 4830479 4834775

INTERNATIONAL

Unthinkable becomes routine

EAST BERLIN, Dec 27, (Reuters): In the space of a few weeks, the unthinkable has become routine in East Germany.

Changes which many residents did not expect to see in their lifetime have been adopted so rapidly that it is sometimes hard to remember how life was under the disgraced Stalinist leadership ousted in October.

The opening of the Berlin Wall, which sealed East Germany from the West from 1961 until Nov 9, was the most visible symbol of revolutionary change.

But all over East German society, invisible walls of fear, mistrust and censorship have crumbled.

The official news agency ADN, which once carried only communist propaganda, now regularly reports opposition statements and demonstrations and carries critical articles on the country's enormous economic and political problems.

East Berlin newspapers, even those pub-

lished directly by the communist party, have become almost indistinguishable from their West German counterparts in terms of critical content.

The East German press publishes the West German TV schedule next to the listing of East German stations, omitting only the times of news broadcasts, which everybody knows anyway.

East German papers have even printed the first advertisements for a West German brand of coffee unavailable in the East except in the few hard currency stores.

West German newspapers, until recently outlawed as hostile to socialism, are now on open display in East Berlin kiosks.

Die Welt, the military anti-communist, nationalistic West German daily owned by the Axel Springer Company, is now distributed to subscribers in East Germany, a country whose name it used to print disdainfully between inverted commas.

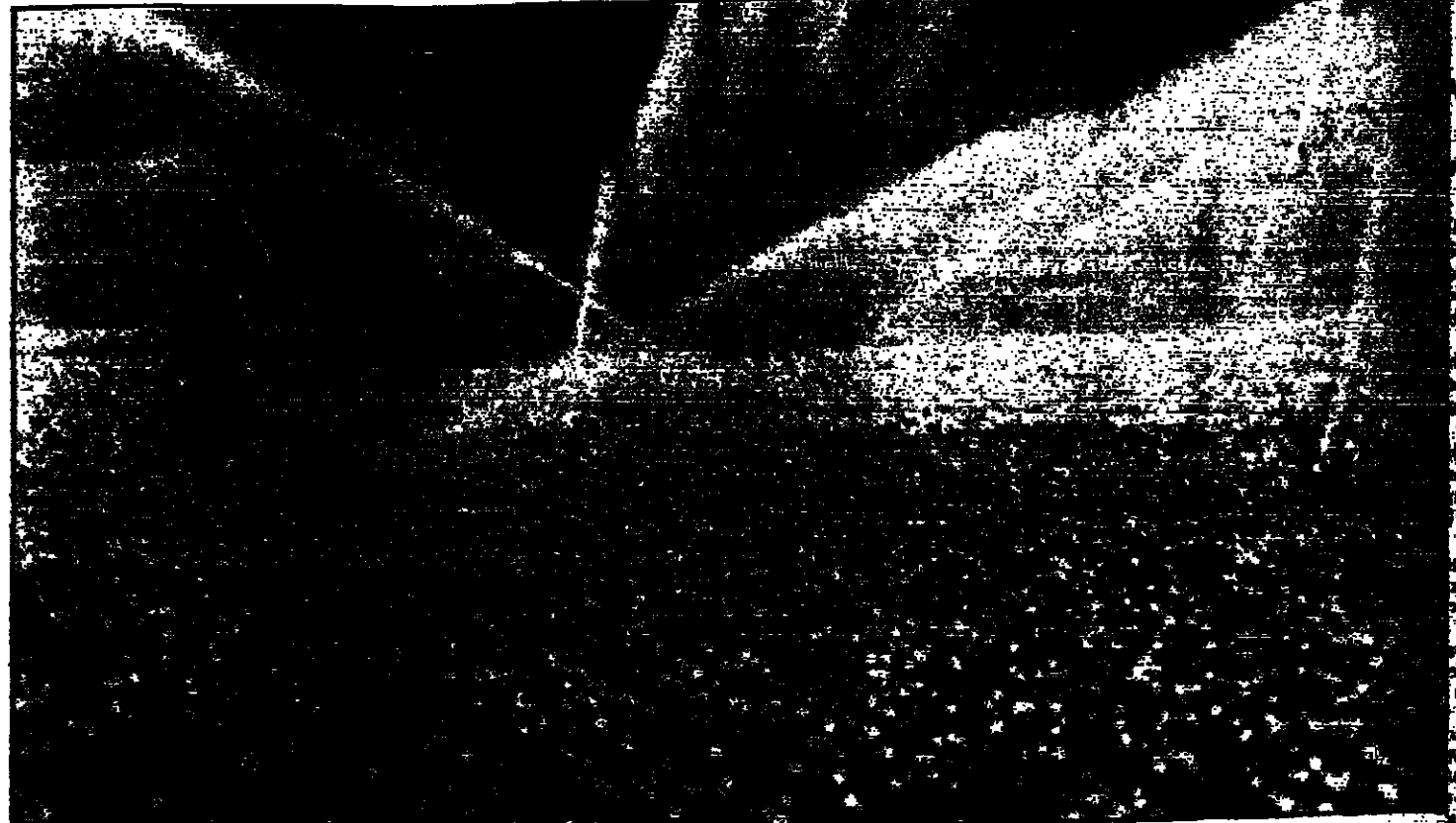
East Germans rubbed their eyes when Western sex magazines went on sale for the first time in East Berlin this month. Such literature was strictly banned in the prudish communist state.

Now East Germany is to have its own first pin-up. The West German edition of Playboy magazine has chosen 21-year-old dentist's assistant Anja Kossak from Magdeburg as its playmate of the month for January.

And East Germany's state-run television gave viewers an erotic Christmas treat by showing a French sex film after midnight.

People are no longer afraid to discuss the hated secret police, nicknamed the Stasi, an abbreviation for the now-abolished ministry for state security.

For four decades, fear of the omnipresent Stasi prevented East Germans from expressing political views in public or to anyone except perhaps trusted friends and relatives.



Cold wave hits Florida

Farmers walk through a frozen strawberry field as water sprinklers pour water to form a coating that will save the crop from temperatures below

32 degrees. Central Florida was hit by a cold wave that officials said comes once every 50 years. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev told to try heal break

Leaders to visit Lithuania

MOSCOW, Dec 27, (Agencies): The Communist Party central committee yesterday directed Mikhail Gorbachev and other top party officials to travel to Lithuania to try to heal the break with that independence-minded Baltic republic's party.

Gorbachev has bitterly criticized Lithuanian communists for their declaration Dec 20 of an independent party, making the first crack in the unity forged by Vladimir Lenin before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

He blasted the Lithuanian Party leadership at a plenum of the Soviet party's central committee that met on Monday and yesterday to consider the Lithuanian move.

Gorbachev accused the Lithuanians of creating a "schism of progressive forces," breaking party rules and allowing themselves to become "hostages to separatists."

But, in a lengthy report published yesterday in the communist daily Pravda, he also urged "maximum restraint" to allow emotions to cool. His report was unanimously approved by the 250-member central committee.

The plenum decided to dispatch Gorbachev and other top party officials to Lithuania soon after Christmas "both to explain our position and at the same time to get a better sense of the situation there," Vadim A. Medvedev, a Politburo member and the party's chief ideologist, told a news conference afterward.

Medvedev said some speakers at the plenum proposed kicking the independent-minded Lithuanians out of the national party or annulling the Lithuanian declaration, but others pushed more moderate measures.

All were united, however, in their disapproval of the Lithuanian move, Medvedev said. "Most agreed that this was a blow to perestroika," he said.

After the central committee trip, which Medvedev said would take place "in not very many days," another central committee meeting will be held in January to make a firm decision on the dispute.

The Lithuanian communist leader who led the break with Moscow, Algirdas Brazauskas, praised the plenum's decision in a radio interview and said the party officials' visit would be "good and helpful," an editor at Lithuanian radio said.

Despite the postponement of a full decision, the central committee's stand as stated yesterday clearly refused to recognise the Lithuanian party's self-proclaimed independent status.

"No part of the Soviet Communist Party has the right to decide the question about its independent existence with its own programme and rules, not taking into account the position of the Soviet Communist Party as a whole," Gorbachev said in the report approved by the plenum. "And this means that the Communist Party of Lithuania was and remains a part of the United Soviet Communist



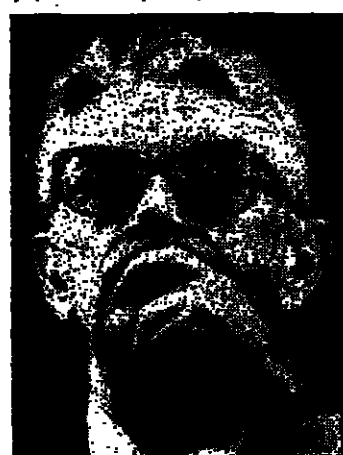
Thousands of Lithuanians gather in Cathedral Square to show their support for the Lithuanian Communist Party after its decision to break with Moscow and form an independent party. (Reuters wirephoto)

Party.

Gorbachev's reforms have allowed nationalist sentiment to surface again among all three Baltic states, which draw their cultural and religious roots more from Europe, Lithuania, as well as Latvia and Estonia, were briefly independent before being absorbed into the Soviet Union under a secret Soviet-Nazi pact in 1940.

The Soviet news agency Tass said Gorbachev accused Lithuanian leaders of having "gone over to playing up to nationalist, separatist forces."

Gorbachev tried for months to head off the split.



Vadim Medvedev

China fury at Gorby policies

BEIJING, Dec 27, (Reuters): China has blasted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for undermining socialism in Eastern Europe in an internal document which also tells Chinese officials what to think and say about the popular uprising in Romania.

Officials told Reuters today they had been ordered to study a Chinese Communist Party document on how to respond to the death of communism in East Europe.

The officials, working in various professions, said they were hastily called in to meetings at work yesterday to be instructed on the document blasting Gorbachev for triggering the "supervision of socialism" in the Eastern bloc.

Foreign diplomats and Chinese residents said party leaders are haunted by parallels between the revolt which overthrew Romania's communist government last week and Beijing's student-led protests which the Chinese Army crushed in June.

China has openly voiced concern over the end of the old communist order in Europe and in private, high-level talks has criticised Gorbachev for being the catalyst.

But the document from the central Communist Party leadership in Beijing, circulated to officials above mid-level, was its most explicit reaction so far.

"It is obvious the leaders are extremely worried about what has happened in Eastern Europe and especially in Romania," one middle-ranking official said in private.

The official, who said he had studied the document, said it was divided into three parts. The first described China's "correct" version of successive anti-communist movements in Eastern Europe.

"It says the changes in Eastern Europe were a subversion of socialism and it says Gorbachev is responsible for them," he added.

The document also maintains that the Romanian system of communism was imposed by Moscow and is therefore different from China's home-grown socialism, which sprang from its own revolution, another official said.

The rest of the paper gives instructions on how officials should reaffirm their support for China's party line and how they should react when asked their views on Romania by foreigners.

"We are not allowed to take a stand either for or against (executed Romanian leader) Nicolae Ceausescu or the people of Romania," said one official.

"To foreigners we are supposed to say something neutral but to Chinese of course we should say the demise of communism was a blunder."

He said he thought the version for foreign consumption was watered down to reassure foreigners, especially investors, that China was not taking a radical communist stand, despite the fall of fellow-communist rulers.

Chinese university campuses, which spearheaded the pro-democracy movement this year, have drawn inspiration from Ceausescu's execution.

Accusations false, says Mexico

Cuban arms supply denied

MEXICO CITY, Dec 27, (AP): High-level Mexican government officials have denied accusations that the Cuban government was shipping weapons to El Salvador's guerrillas through Mexican territory.

"Mexico has been especially careful to establish facilities in its territory for preventing the situations described," a Mexican official said yesterday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In a dispatch from Washington, the Associated Press reported Monday that US officials believe Cuba is shipping weapons across Mexico to guerrillas fighting the US-supported government of El Salvador.

As described by US officials, the route involves shipping arms across the 130-mile (208 kilometres) wide Yucatan Channel to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, then by truck via an unknown route through Guatemala to El Salvador.

"One top Mexican official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity yesterday said that the accusations were 'irresponsible, lacking in credibility and false.'"

The official added that the United States has never brought the matter up officially and said the Mexican government would

Socialism come what may

HAVANA, Dec 27, (Reuters): Cuba's National Assembly yesterday passed a motion saying the island would sink rather than abandon socialism.

The assembly, which approves laws, passes the state budget and supervises other official bodies, also approved a resolution condemning the US invasion of Panama.

"The National Assembly of People's Power swore today on the memory of the nation's heroes that the island would sink into the sea before allowing the flags of the revolution and socialism to be pulled down," the domestic news agency AIN reported.

The motion was the latest in a series of recent statements by Cuban state institutions and leaders proclaiming allegiance to the one-party communist system introduced by President Fidel Castro following the revolution he led in 1959.

Castro has strongly rejected the Western-leaning political reforms being carried out by Cuba's traditional socialist allies in Eastern Europe.

The Cuban National Assembly reaffirmed key articles of Cuba's 1976 constitution which defines Cuba as a socialist state and the ruling Communist Party as "the Marxist-Leninist vanguard of the working class and the highest leading force of society and the state."

have no on-the-record comment because the accusations were leaked.

The Mexican government has historically been sympathetic to Salvadoran rebels, but that support has been muted since President Carlos Salinas de Gortari took office a year ago.

US officials contend Soviet bloc arms are reaching Salvadoran rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front through Cuba and Nicaragua, although recent administration statements indicate they do not see the Soviet Union as the principal villain.

The US officials told the AP that Cuba was looking for new ways to help the rebels to avoid exposing Nicaragua's Sandinista government to criticism.

Majority want one Germany

BONN, Dec 27, (AP): Two opinion polls published yesterday said a majority of East Germans support German reunification, but the margin of support differed widely.

West German institutes conducted both polls.

A poll conducted by the Marplan Research Institute in Offenbach said 80.7 per cent of those East Germans polled supported German reunification.

A poll carried out for the mass-circulation Bild newspaper by the respected Infas Institute said that 52 per cent of those questioned supported reunification, while 37 per cent were against it.

The Marplan poll was conducted on Dec 8 and 9 at 10 border crossings between the two German states and 565 East Germans over the age of 16 were questioned, the Bonn Interior Ministry said.

The Infas poll questioned 1,092 East Germans in a nationwide telephone survey conducted between Dec 16 and 20. That poll coincided partly with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to East Germany on Dec 19-20.

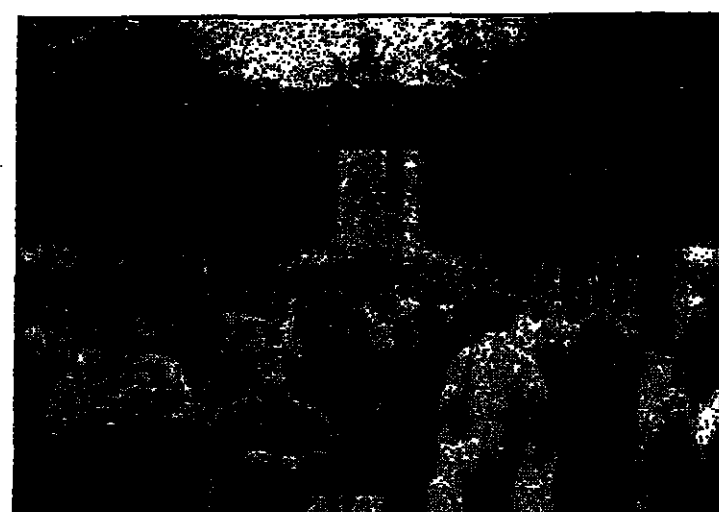
Wolfgang Schnur, chairman of a new East German political party, withdrew today from talks between the coalition government and the opposition groups following allegations of corruption.

The so-called round-table talks to discuss the future course of the country resumed today after a break for the Christmas holiday.

New Forum, East Germany's largest opposition group, said it will remain a broad political movement but will not constitute itself into a full political party.

East Germany's Stalinist leader Erich Honecker was ousted after a clash with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in October, a former politburo member disclosed today.

Horst Sindermann said in an interview with the communist youth newspaper Junge Welt that Honecker spurned Gorbachev's call for reform in East Germany.



Thousands of West Berliners walked on the East Berlin boulevard Unter den Linden after streaming through the Brandenburg Gate on Dec 26. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reforms demanded

Bulgarian call for strikes

SOFIA, Dec 27, (Reuters): Bulgaria's unofficial trade union called yesterday for two days of workers' strikes to press demands for political reform.

Bulgarian television announced the strike calls, marking the first time it had reported appeals for labour unrest since the communists took power after World War Two.

The state news agency BTA reported earlier that the Communist Party's ruling Politburo had agreed to talks with newly-formed independent groups on political reforms early next year, but this was clearly not enough to satisfy the opposition.

The Podkrepa (support) Union called for a two-hour warning strike today and a general strike tomorrow to press demands that party leaders and Parliament representatives resign and that party organisations in the workplace be abolished.

It said workers at hospitals and strategic industries should stay on the job, but support the strike in some symbolic way. A Podkrepa spokesman said he expected half of Sofia's 500,000 workers to support the strike.

Floods kill 24 in Brazil towns

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 27, (AP): Flooding in Brazil's usually dry east-central region has killed 24 people and destroyed the homes of at least 140,000 people, a civil defence official said yesterday.

Unofficial reports said most victims drowned or were buried when houses collapsed, national civil defence spokesman Silvio Reiner said by telephone from Brasilia, the capital, 744 miles (1,200 kms) northwest of Rio.

Civil defence workers were flying emergency shipments of food, blankets and medicine, mainly anti-typhoid and snake bite serum, to the historic city of Cachoeira, he said. It is 930 miles (1,500 kms) northeast of Rio.

Reiner said 140 cities and towns in five of Brazil's 26 states were affected by floods brought on by more than two weeks of torrential rain.

Worst-hit is northeastern Bahia state, where 105,000 people were driven from their homes, he said.

Sixty-five of Bahia's 415 towns declared a state of public calamity because of flooding, the spokesman said.

Road traffic to and from Cachoeira was cut off by the Paraguaçu river, which overflowed and covered much of the city.

Television footage yesterday showed families paddling down flooded streets in canoes and rowboats loaded with sofas, stoves and other household goods.

Stranded residents sat on roofs of Portuguese colonial-era houses that date from the 18th century.

The city, considered a national historic monument, had lost electricity and was running out of food and drinking water, Reiner said.

Roads and bridges in much of the state were washed out by the floods, he said.

Dubcek wins Sakharov prize for human rights

PRAGUE, Dec 27, (Reuters): Ousted Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Alexander Dubcek has been chosen to receive the 1989 Andrei Sakharov prize for defence of human rights.

The prize, awarded by the European Parliament, is to be presented in the second half of January, the Czechoslovak news agency CTK said today.

Dubcek, who lost power after the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of his country, is expected to be named chairman of the federal assembly, the national Parliament, later this week.

during most of their pre-trial detention. Soviet practice has been to allow the presence of a defence lawyer to prepare for trial only after the prosecutor has finished questioning the suspect and building his case.

"This will not improve the results of the war with crime, but only make our already sick society more cruel," Sakharov's text said. "The whole country will just see a new lie in the new law."

Sakharov cited the laws of many Western countries limiting the amount of time suspects can be held without trial.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inaugural festivities: Czechoslovakia on Wednesday announced inaugural festivities worthy of its first non-communist president in 41 years, including a rollicking outdoor ball and a solemn Mass at a towering Gothic cathedral after Friday's presidential election.

The 350-member, communist-dominated parliament is scheduled to meet at 10 am Friday in a televised special session to cast ballots for the country's next leader.

Vaclav Havel, the veteran dissident and playwright, is the single, unchallenged candidate for the post.

Immediately after the vote, Havel will be sworn in as a cannon fires 20 salvos to herald the historic event. (AP)

Riot charges overturned: A state appeals court has overturned misdemeanor riot convictions of three young men in the Howard Beach racial killing and dismissed the indictments against them, saying the trial judge committed two errors.

Prosecutors either can appeal, resubmit evidence to a grand jury for new indictments or dismiss the case against the three white defendants.

The 19-year-old defendants — William Bollerand, Thomas Farino and James Poverelli — were charged with taking part in the attack on three black men three years ago in the mainly white Howard Beach section of New York, not far from John F. Kennedy airport. (AP)

Search for 14 crewmen: A rescue plane searched without success Tuesday for 13 crewmen missing since a Romanian cargo ship sank in stormy seas Sunday, a Spanish Navy official said.

The Spanish tug Alonso de Chaves was headed to port after it spent a day in the area 17 kilometres (11 miles) off Cape Finisterre, where the 2,473-tonne Topoloveni capsized, said the official, who by custom is not identified. He said the search plane flew from at nightfall, and he did not know whether the search would continue. (AP)

Search for teenager suspended: Police combing southern Italy's rugged, bandit-ridden Aspromonte mountains in hopes of finding a teenaged kidnaper victim announced Tuesday that they will suspend the search for 48 hours beginning Wednesday to give the boy's abductors a last chance to set him free.

The dramatic decision in the case of missing student Cesare Casella of northern Pavia near Venice was made by Pavia investigating magistrate Vincenzo Calla, in charge of the investigation.

"If the boy is not set free during this time, then the search will go on," said Calla.

Police and tracker dogs have been mounting a renewed hunt for the boy, abducted Jan 19, 1988, ever since the presumed head of the gang which seized him was wounded in a shootout on Christmas eve during payment of part of a ransom exceeding \$4 million. (UPI)

Quake hits Mexico: An earthquake registering 4.6 on the Richter Scale shook southeastern Mexico near its border with Guatemala Tuesday, the official Mexican News Agency Notimex reported.

Mexico's national seismology service reported the quake occurred at 8:23 am local time (1423 GMT) in the southeastern state of Chiapas, Notimex said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or material damages. (UPI)

YMCA seeks to return: After more than 70 years of exile, the YMCA is seeking to return to the Soviet Union.

Founded in 1844 as the Young Men's Christian Organisation, it operates athletic facilities and cultural programmes for young people in 97 countries.

But the organisation would probably have a slightly different name and emphasis if outposts reopened in Soviet cities, a main architect of the idea says. (AP)

كندا / Canada

كروا مع الاصل

Romania

Ceausescu went to his execution defiant to the end

BUCHAREST, Dec. 27 (Reuters): Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena went to their deaths at the hands of an army firing squad defiantly denying the right of their military accusers to judge them.

"I do not recognise this court. I will be judged only by the people," Ceausescu repeatedly told the military prosecutor in a videotaped Romanian television broadcast late yesterday.

The television did not show the couple's faces when their death sentence was pronounced, apparently without any pause in proceedings after the attempted interrogation. But Ceausescu was heard clearly to say: "It doesn't matter. It has no importance."

The Ceausescus, seized on Friday after the revolution which overthrew them, were executed by firing squad after Monday's trial in a secret location convicted them of genocide and other crimes.

The country's new Prime Minister Petre Roman said yesterday the pair were summarily executed because of fears that forces loyal to the Ceausescus were planning a rescue attempt.

The hour-long videotape of the final hours of the couple who ruled Romania with an iron hand for 24 years showed Ceausescu, 71, arguing angrily at the army tribunal on Monday and declaring in a loud voice: "I do not recognise this court. Read the constitution."

"We've read the constitution," an off-screen voice answered. "We know it better than you."

"I will not answer a single question," Ceausescu said.

The screening ended with a final vignette of Ceausescu lying on his back alongside his 70-year-old wife in front of a concrete wall, his eyes open and blood oozing from his head.

The television never showed his accusers, but broadcast their voices.

At one stage challenged on what he had done for society, he said: "I built hospitals."

Questioned about food shortages, he curtly retorted: "The people have 200 kilos of corn."

Both were dressed neatly, she in a fur-collared blue topcoat and black and white scarf with a red tie, he in a black coat. She sat grey faced, listening attentively to

her accusers.

From time to time her husband put his hand on her hand to reassure her as they sat at a table in a sparsely furnished room.

Ceausescu, seized on Friday after the revolution which overthrew him, was executed with his wife after Monday's swift trial found him guilty of genocide and other crimes against the state.

"I will answer nothing. I will sign nothing. I will not recognise this court," Ceausescu said.

"Who ordered the shooting of the people?" the interrogator asked.

"I will not answer a single question," Ceausescu replied. "Do not interpret my silence as answers."

"I will only answer to the working class," said Ceausescu, who often stared at the ceiling. "I will tell the people. I will answer to the working class."

The people should fight to destroy this band which together with foreign powers wants to destroy the country and has carried out a coup," Ceausescu screamed, pointing frantically with his finger.

He often wagged his finger in the gesture that was a hallmark of the lecturing style he adopted throughout his political life.

Ceausescu emotionally waved his hand up and down and said he would answer only to Parliament.

Elena occasionally smiled and mumbled. Earlier yesterday, a member of the National Salvation Front interim government quoted her as telling her captors: "We want to die together, we do not want mercy."

"What possessed you to reduce the people to the state they are in?" the interrogator asked. "Not even the peasants had enough wheat and had to come to Bucharest to buy bread."

"Why did the people have to starve?"

"This is a lie," Ceausescu said. "Think carefully. It is a lie and proves the lack of patriotism currently in the country."

"You destroyed the Romanian people and their economy," the interrogator said. "Such things are unheard of in the civilized world."

"We do not intend to argue with you," Ceausescu said. "The population had everything it needed."

Elena stared absently with apparent lack of interest.

"I will answer only to the people's Parliament in connection with treason and the coup and how things happened in Romanian history and you will all answer to the people," Ceausescu said.

"How can you let them speak to you like that?" Elena said to her husband. "Will you allow them to speak to an academician in such a way?"

Elena seemed exhausted and was slumped against the wall in her chair most of the time. But sometimes her eyes darted back and forth.

"Let Elena Ceausescu tell us about the costs of publishing her books abroad," the off-screen voice said.

"I gave my entire life for my people," she said angrily, making chopping motions with her hand. "Our people."

"On the basis of the actions of the members of the Ceausescu family, we condemn the two of you to death," the off-screen voice said. "We confiscate all your property."

Then there was a freeze-frame and the accused pair's reaction was not visible.

"Please enter into the minutes that all the conditions exist to bring a verdict of guilty," the voice said.

The off-screen voice, in an angry and decisive tone, then listed the articles under which the two were found guilty.

"We tried to get you a lawyer," the voice said. "Your crimes were such that you merit the biggest penalty."

Ceausescu tried to comfort his wife by touching her hand. She looked down and licked her lips.

"It is sad that you do not wish to confess the crimes you have committed against the Romanian people," the voice said. "We mean here Timisoara and Bucharest."

"You have not only deprived the people of bread and heating, but you imprisoned the Romanian spirit which could not express itself in any way. You took oxygen from the wounded," the voice continued.

"Your terrorists supplied themselves in the underground and opposed the people. You have drained us. You went to the ayatollah to make your final goodbyes (a reference to Ceausescu's state visit to Iran last week).



Ceausescu gesturing during his trial. To his right is his wife Elena. (Reuters wirephoto)



A victim of the fighting which toppled Ceausescu is carried to his grave. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tears of bitterness and relief

Romanians bury their dead

BUCHAREST, Romania, Dec. 27 (AP): Romanians buried themselves of Nicolae Ceausescu yesterday with tears of bitterness and relief, burying victims of the revolt to the sound of lingering gunfire.

Television broadcast a videotape of the ousted dictator and his wife Elena after their capture. Later, it showed their bodies slumped beneath a bullet-pocked wall.

For many, that was not nearly enough.

"He should be stripped naked, and his body paraded through the streets," said Dumitru Minca, 70, whose 14-year-old grandson, Silviu, was among the many young victims buried at Boto Cemetery.

Silviu Minca's surviving friends said "terrorists" — the term they use for Ceausescu's Securitate guards — called to them from a window and sprayed them with gunfire when they approached.

His 3-year-old sister Irina, clutching a stuffed rabbit in the bitter cold, watched the funeral procession.

All day, sobbing families accompanied coffins to a field of 200 freshly dug graves in southern Bucharest.

Cemetery officials say 300 to 400 victims of the

revolution will have to be buried, but hundreds of others killed in the five days of fighting are believed buried in secret graves dug by Ceausescu loyalists.

Gravedigger Nicolae Abag stood beside a pine cross marked, "first hero," and wept with the mourners.

"This is so so much," he said. "I have not cried here since the earth moved in 1977," the year an earthquake killed nearly 2,000 people in the region.

At the next grave, people mourned Nicisor Paunoiu, an elevator mechanic who responded to an appeal to protect a radio station under attack by the Securitate.

Paunoiu and three friends stormed a Securitate stronghold unarmed. Three of them were cut down by automatic weapons fire. He left a son and a daughter who was married just three weeks ago.

Further down, there was Dan Adrian Uruicu, a 21-year-old student who went to protect the television station. He joined 3,000 others in a human shield between attacking Ceausescu loyalists and army men holed up in the 13-story television building. Uruicu was felled by a bullet in the back.

Bread rings and other foods were left beside many of the graves, under an ancient local tradition of offering gifts to the dead for the afterlife.

Tough task for new premier

VIENNA, Dec. 27 (AP): Romania's new interim premier said yesterday, that the new leadership faces the daunting task of finding ways to mend a country torn by bloody strife and reeling from a battered economy.

Petre Roman, a 43-year-old university professor, acknowledged, in an interview with Soviet television, that the 37-member council of National Salvation Committee, Romania's main organ of power, has not had time to examine the major problems facing the nation.

"What we have achieved so far is to solve only emergency problems," Roman told the Vremya news programme.

"The greater part of the cadres we need for our economy have not yet resumed their work. It's clear that our difficulties are great," he said.

Romania's economy was badly mismanaged during Ceausescu's rule, leading to widespread food and energy shortages.

Ceausescu, who rejected reforms underway in all Soviet bloc countries, advocated instead a Stalinist-type centrally planned economy, entirely disregarding market forces and outlawing private property.

Roman told French television in another interview yesterday that ousted leader Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were executed only two days after their capture outside Bucharest Dec. 25 because of fears that Ceausescu's secret police was planning "coordinated efforts" to win their release.



Romanian dissident Doinea Cornea (R) has her belongings searched as she enters the TV station. (Reuters wirephoto)



A girl student tends a small shrine in the middle of the main street outside Bucharest university watched by an old woman. The cross decorated with roses and bread marks the spot where students were killed by forces loyal to Ceausescu.

Sidelights

PLO denounces attacks: PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said on Tuesday that Palestinian diplomats and students were attacked in Bucharest and other Romanian cities during fighting surrounding the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa quoted him as saying the attacks were "committed by irresponsible Romanian elements carried away by the hateful press campaign launched by Radio Free Europe and certain Hungarian media who tried to implicate Palestinians, Syrians and Libyans."

Unconfirmed reports about the battles in Romania have said Arabs fought alongside forces loyal to the executed Romanian leader. (Reuters)

Oprea returns to Romania: A minister in the government of executed Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu left home by boat on Tuesday after an official visit to Turkey, Romanian consulate officials in Istanbul said.

They said it was unclear what fate awaited Gheroghe Oprea, one of the three powerful first deputy prime ministers under Ceausescu.

"He was one of the top officials, immediately after the premier," said an official at the Romanian embassy in Ankara. "He was in such a high position."

"He'll be arrested as soon as he gets back. He has to report to the National Salvation Front, our new government," the official added.

Oprea told reporters on Friday he would go back because he was a Romanian.

"My regime will never fall. I will do everything to help the development of socialism in Romania," he said. (Reuters)

Party headquarters shattered: The windows of Communist Party headquarters are shattered, its marble corridors are chipped by bullets and splattered with blood, and the Ceausescu elite's offices are now guarded by hotel bellboys, students and waiters.

Apart from the spacious office suites of absolute ruler Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena, all senior government officials had offices in the building and carried out their duties there under the couple's tight supervision.

Prime Minister Constantin Dascalu had his office on the same floor of Ceausescu. Elsewhere in the huge complex were the offices of Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu, who also headed the Securitate secret police, vice-premier Ion Radu and other ministers.

Forcing open the heavy doors, bare-handed students and workers stormed the building last Friday and quickly armed themselves with weapons from the large stores found inside or dropped by fleeing Securitate.

Troops loyal to the newly-formed National Salvation Front quickly followed and a loose division of the building between civilians and army was set up. Civilians controlled the left wing and the army the centre and right wing. (Reuters)

Khamenei defends: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei today defended Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, under fire over an untimely visit to Tehran by Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu just before he was overthrown.

The Iranian press and several politicians have blasted Velayati for failing to inform the Iranian leadership of the hatred in Romania towards Ceausescu, who was executed on Monday.

But Khamenei, expressing support for the foreign minister, told a rally in Tehran that he "would not allow the weakening of authorities by levelling undue criticism against them," the national news agency Irna reported.

Khamenei urged officials to refrain from attacking Velayati who, he said, was committed to the cause of advancing Iran's external objectives.

Velayati to be queried: The Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will be queried before the Iranian parliament on the visit to Iran by the late Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu days before his overthrow and subsequent execution.

Iranian news agency (Irna) reported last night that 45 parliamentarians will ask Velayati to justify why a clear analysis of developments in Romania was not represented to the Tehran government ahead of the Ceausescu visit.

The parliamentarians will also ask for clarifications about the timing of Ceausescu's visit, between Dec. 18-21. (Kuna)

Ceausescu loyalists given deadline to surrender

(Continued from Page 1)

Iliescu and broadcast today by Bucharest radio.

Anyone seized after the deadline would be tried by special court and the sentence carried out swiftly, it said, in a move clearly aimed at speeding up army operations against die-hard remnants of Ceausescu's brutal Securitate force.

A similar deadline last Monday was ignored by well-armed Securitate forces who tried to launch counter-revolutionary terror by indiscriminate killing, but the army now says they offer only isolated resistance.

West Germany today stepped up security at its Bucharest embassy after a threat from Securitate forces to kill the ambassador, who was not in residence.

Mazilu said the new leadership would "have to work with others who had to be submissive to the tyrant, but we shall not take them into the government."

"We will work with clean people," he said. All top Ceausescu political detainees had been sacked.

Former career diplomat Sergiu Celac, purged by Ceausescu several years ago, was named foreign minister, his deputy Corneliu Bogdan said.

He told reporters the National Salvation Front would have to bring in emergency measures to stabilise the political situation, fashion a new election law and streamline the economy, which was described as "disastrous."

Mazilu said Romania's culture, education and public life had also been entirely desecrated under Ceausescu.

Romania's national bank, acting for the new government, asked banks around the world to freeze any assets which Ceausescu may have deposited with them. Ceausescu was charged with siphoning away \$1 billion in foreign accounts.

As governments around the world, and Romanian diplomatic missions, continued to switch sides and support the country's new rulers, China's Communist Party instructed its cadres to follow a balancing act when commenting on events there.

"We are not allowed to take a stand either for or against Ceausescu or the people of Romania," said one official about the uprising, which was sparked by a mass killing of demonstrators by Securitate gunmen.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev discussed the improving situation in

Romania by telephone today with the country's interim leader, Iliescu. Tass news agency reported.

The new government today categorically denied reports that claimed some Arabs had been involved in recent developments in Romania that resulted in ouster and execution of Ceausescu. Radio Bucharest reported.

The United States will send an additional \$250,000 in emergency medical supplies and other relief assistance to Romania tomorrow and a five-member US team will visit Bucharest next week to assess relief needs, the White House said today.

Panic and chaos turned Romania into a land of fear, suspicion and retribution

By John Daniszewski

BELGRADE (AP): The uprising against dictator Nicolae Ceausescu gave rise to fierce resistance by his secret police, and his arrest and subsequent execution quickly turned Romania into a land of fear, suspicion and retribution. I know, I became a victim of that chaos Saturday night.

I was shot three times, narrowly escaping death. One bullet grazed my skull, and two more are lodged in my left arm.

Thanks to some dedicated doctors in District Hospital No. 1 in Timisoara, and the friendly intervention of Yugoslav diplomats in the city, I survived and was evacuated within two days to the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade.

It is hard to describe the mood of panic and paranoia that pervaded Timisoara, a petro-

chemical centre in western Romania with about 350,000 inhabitants.

The events that led to Ceausescu's fall began a week before Christmas. Demonstrations to prevent a protestant minister from being evicted swelled into anti-government protests. Unarmed civilians were gunned down by state security troops, the Securitate, in the main square.

No Westerner has been able to verify the number of fatalities, but doctors with whom I spoke said more than 4,000 died. After the slaughter, the bodies were gathered in trucks and taken to a mass grave.

The blood that flowed that day on the square sparked a popular thirst for revenge. Residents responded with a general strike, and the army declared itself with the people and against Ceausescu.

After state television in Bucharest fell to the

opposition on Friday, the borders were opened for the first time in four days to Western journalists.

I flew to Belgrade from Warsaw late Friday, rented a car at the airport, and started driving to Romania's border.

Just before entering Romania, I met a Yugoslav journalist, Ljuba Pajic, who was to be my companion in the days that followed.

Although I arrived at the border with no visa, the slightly drunken border guards wearing armbands in the national colours of red, blue and yellow let me in with little formality.

"American! You are with us," one guard whispered out of earshot of his superior.

On the two-hour drive to Timisoara, we were repeatedly stopped by groups of peasants waving the Romanian flag — with the communist emblem cut out of it.

"Ceausescu kaput, Ceausescu finito," they

shouted to the foreigners.

But once entering Timisoara, tension replaced jubilation. A siren wailed and young people on the street talked fearfully of an air raid.

Ceausescu's forces were going to bomb the city, they claimed.

So, with car lights off, fearing the bombs that never fell and avoiding the black silhouettes of tanks at many street corners, we began to search for the main hotel, where I thought we would find other journalists.

Ljuba and I ended up at the Hotel Timisoara, near the Opera square. Inside the darkened lobby, we were frisked by nervous young people carrying knives, clubs and sharpened sticks.

French photographer Jean Langevant bobbled in holding his buddy's arm, a bullet hole in his leg. He was bleeding badly, but the

rat-a-tat-tat of gunfire growing nearer outside made everyone reluctant to seek help.

Finally, a car rolled up to the front door and Langevant was bundled inside. Ljuba and I decided to follow in our car.

Headlights off again, we raced through the deserted streets, afraid to stop. We screeched into the courtyard of District Hospital No. 2.

The photographer was taken to the operating room and we spend the night huddled in the doctors' lounge.

The hospital, like the other buildings in Timisoara at night, was kept in darkness whenever possible.

"They shoot at the light," one physician said, drawing a curtain closed when the flicker of a television set dimly lighted the lounge.

Doctors said they had been working with a constant stream of shooting victims since Dec

17. They too were afraid, cowering on the floor when the noise of gunfire came close.

It was a long night. But by midmorning Saturday the shooting had died down enough to go outside.

We spent Saturday trying to locate an outside phone line to tell the story.

In the evening, I returned to Hotel Timisoara, where we talked to the leader of the pro-democracy forces, headquartered there.

Their chief was a dignified young man dressed in a black beret and trenchcoat, who spoke some French.

The hotel was again in total darkness. He led us to a small cafe off the kitchen, where he pushed together two tables and fed us sliced sausages, salty cheese and soda. A Romanian soldier with a sub-machine gun and a several rebels looked on.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, Dec. 27, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received in an audience HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al Sabah.

Role of science

A SEMINAR on "Official Information and its Role in Scientific Research and Decision Making" will be held between 29-31 Jan 1990 under the patronage of the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rasheed Al Rashid.

The seminar, to be organised in co-operation with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and Kuwait University, will be attended by 100 specialists representing information authorities, from several Arab states.

Criminal police

KUWAIT'S delegation to a conference held by the International Organisation for Criminal Police has returned home after taking part in the four-day meeting held in Leon, France.

The Director-General of the General Department for Criminal Evidence, Colonel Saud Al Barges was the head of the delegation. Al Barges said they presented three papers on analysing blood, sperm and other techniques used at Kuwaiti labs.

Other issues discussed at the conference included dusting of fingerprints, and gathering evidence from firearms to trace a murder weapon, and examining types of drugs left at the scene of a crime.

Kuwait students

KUWAIT, Dec. 27, (Kuna): A delegation representing the national union of Kuwaiti students, French branch, on Tuesday paid a visit to HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al Sabah at his Diwan in Bayan Palace.

Addressing the students, Sheikh Saad urged them to work hard for comprehensive progress in Kuwait.

Conference

THE second international conference on the management of pastures will be held next year in Kuwait under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al Sabah.

The conference will take place from March 3-6, 1990.

The head of the conference's higher organising committee, Dr Muhammad Al Attar, said special financial grants will be given to those who present the best research paper. The aim of the conference is to find the best and ideal method for the management of pastures. Future plans will also be discussed.

It will be jointly organised by GCC, EPC, KISR, KJas and the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries.

Waldegrave call

BRITISH Minister of State for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave yesterday called for launching a new peace initiative so that peace can be reached between Iraq and Iran.

The British diplomat, speaking to a Qatari newspaper published in Doha, said that there is a desperate need for further efforts so that the peace process is moved to a positive situation.

The official, whose statements were carried by the Qatari News Agency said that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council support efforts of UN secretary-general in every step he deems appropriate.

Move to integrate Filipinos

End of year meeting

THE Philippine embassy in Kuwait, together with the Kapilku, organized a fairly-attended "Miting de Advance" at the embassy premises on Dec. 22, 1989.

The meeting started with the distribution of survey forms for the Philippine School which the embassy, as well as a majority of the Filipino community with families, envision to have by the middle of this year.

Next on the agenda was the organizing of a "Comelec" to map out the procedures and policies which shall govern the next Kapilku elections sometime next year. Elected to be members of the Comelec were Cora Paras and Gil Bangalan, both former officers of Kapilku and popularly-accepted as non-partisan members of the community, and three officers from the embassy.

The meeting also agreed to have at least one authorized poll watcher from each of the four actively-running parties who are fielding candidates for the Kapilku elections. Administrative support, including the printing of official ballots will remain the responsibility of the incumbent administration of Kapilku, headed by Manny Inserto. It was also recommended and agreed that Kapilku elections will be held from 8-5 pm, instead of the usual 2-6 pm, but still on a Friday, whose specific date will be announced later.

Third on the agenda was the decision to review the Kapilku Constitution, with the end in view of amending, if not altogether, revising some portions of the constitution that have become outdated. On this point, the representatives of the embassy emphasized the need for establishing or organizing only one umbrella organization that will incor-

porate, if not assimilate, the projects and activities of all the seven other organizations, for a more united Philippine community in Kuwait. For this purpose, it was resolved in last Friday's meeting that at least one representative from each existing organization and from each of the four running parties should be present in the initial meeting to be held on Thursday evening at 8.00 pm at the Mabuhay Restaurant.

Representatives of the embassy will also be around to monitor, if not, moderate over the discussions. The highlight of last Friday's meeting was the presentation of platforms and candidates from each of the four running parties. First to present their platform was the party of Juan Mercado, Evelyn San Ramon and Sarah Macarimbang. Next was KTMK headed by Grace Covarrubias, Albert Castro, and Esther Madamba. Third to present themselves was the Ureka headed by Bong Leomo, Grace Aznarra, and Joe Sta. Maria. Some of their line-up were not present because they were on leave from their companies for a holiday break. Last to present was the Mass headed by Dick Orense, Chichi Luna, and Florence delos Santos.

It was also announced that more survey forms for the Philippine School will be made available through Mabuhay Restaurant in the city, and through Engr. Alex Dimaculangan of KNPC and Marilyn Inductivo of Al Adan Hospital for the residents of the Fahad, Ahmadi, and Mina Al Zour areas.

The meeting ended by reminding one and all to send their representatives, especially from the eight Filipino organizations, to the 8.00 pm meeting on Thursday, 28 December 1989 at the Mabuhay Restaurant.



Army band

Kuwait's army band has gone to Baghdad to take part in the celebrations marking the establishment of the Iraqi army 20 years ago. Some members of the Kuwaiti delegation (pictured above) after their arrival in Baghdad. Several military bands from other Arab countries will also take part.

Call to fight illiteracy

KUWAIT, Dec. 27, (Kuna): Education Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khudari has called for concerted international efforts to eradicate illiteracy.

Citing United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation statistics, he said there were 889 million illiterates in the world, the majority of them in developing countries.

Khudari made the call at a symposium held at the Journalists Association. It comes within the framework of the country's celebrations of the 1990 as the International Year for Literacy Eradication.

In his capacity as chairman of Kuwait's committee, Khudari said steps have been taken since the early 1950s, including the issue of act to eradicate illiteracy in 1980.

He said the committee had proposed the organisation of an anti-illiteracy campaign through the media, posters and by offering incentives to illiterates who join classes.

He said illiteracy is a threat to the entire society and hampers national income and comprehensive development plans.

Local group urged to join efforts to eradicate illiteracy

"Illiteracy is a cultural and economic problem that excludes no one. It is an illusion to believe that the negative aspects of illiteracy are limited to the illiterate alone," Khudari said.

Meanwhile, a top official has urged a woman's society to help fight illiteracy in Kuwait. The Assistant Undersecretary of Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Abdulrahman Al Mazroui has urged the Bayader Al Salam Women's Society to assist social institutions and the Ministry of Education in their fight against illiteracy.

Al Mazroui has asked all private institutions to co-operate with the government establishments for the eradication of illiteracy.

He was addressing the members of Bayader Al Salam Women's Society, a non-profit organisation, which held a ceremony to mark the end of cultural and artistic activities for 1989.

The society's chairwoman Dalal Al Othman as well as a number of participants were also present.

The ceremony coincided with the eighth anniversary of the establishment of Bayader Al Salam Society. Its objectives are to concentrate on protecting the society against harmful effects of foreign cultures.

Al Othman stressed that the society was keen on strengthening Islamic and patriotic values by educating the mother — who is the nucleus of the family — as well as providing the children with Islamic teachings using developed techniques. The society holds lectures, seminars and intellectual discussions to enlighten women and make them aware of their duties towards their society, added Al Othman.

The ceremony consisted of entertainment segments and a special artistic exhibition displaying handicrafts made by the members of the society.

Bayader Al Salam Society was established in 1981 and the last conference it attended was the Iraqi Women's Union Conference held in Baghdad early last September.

Expats nurture private schools

Reduces costs: claim

The Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education, Dr Yacoub Al Sharrar has said that the private schools play a big role in providing schooling for expatriate children.

Speaking at a seminar organised by Al Najat Charity Society, he said private education should be given special importance as it provides an essential base for the schooling of non-Arab children.

The public sector caters only to Kuwaiti children, and exempted some other categories, but a majority of non-Arab children go to private schools.

He said private education should continue to reduce the pressure on government schools, and reduce the high costs of education. The increase in expatriates has led to a sharp increase in the number of pupils at private schools during the last 15 years and their numbers have increased by 250 per cent during the period.

This sharp increase in the number of private schools, teachers and pupils has caused many problems for the Education Ministry and this situation is expected to increase considerably in the foreseeable future. The number of Kuwaiti pupils in private schools increased by 207.6 per cent during the period from 1980 to 1988, the official said.

However, these schools also offer opportunities for expatriate teachers and employees and Sharrar revealed that the state intends in the near future to employ Kuwaiti nationals in these schools.

Dr Saud Al Shayes from the Society of Teachers said that 90 per cent of private schools were built and opened between 1967 and 1980. He added that there is no difference between curriculums of private and public schools. However, private schools teach pupils in primary classes foreign languages which are not offered by public schools.

Six months RI for illegal entry

THE Criminal Court acquitted two infiltrators from the charge of involvement in a liquor smuggling attempt but has sentenced them to six months in jail with hard labour for attempted infiltration. They will be deported on completing the jail terms.

The court heard that the two men paid five thousand Iraqi dinars to the driver of the vanette who offered to smuggle them into the country.

The court was told that a vanette was observed travelling at high speed on the Jabra Road. A police patrol ordered the driver to slow down, but the driver sped away.

In attempting to give chase, the police patrol was threatened by the driver of the vanette with a machine-gun. However, the police continued to give chase.

To avoid capture, the driver of the vanette took a sudden turn into a desert road resulting in the vanette overturning and causing the death of the driver.

Oman arms decision next year

PARIS, Dec. 27, (Kuna): The Omani government will decide by mid-1990 on tenders given by French, Dutch and British shipyards on the construction of missile boats for the navy, it was reported here today.

According to the Middle East defence bi-weekly, *Mednews*, the French bid was discussed on Nov 30 in Muscat when the French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement visited the Sultanate.

The French bid for the construction of three 70-metre missile boats made it to the Omani shortlist along with bids from a British and a Dutch ship construction companies, said *Mednews*.

The French entry, called "Esd-padon 1000", is derived from the successful Espadon 50 class missile boats recently delivered to the French Navy and currently on offer to Tunisia, said *Mednews*.

"The Omani requirement calls for ships at least 70 metres at waterline, with a maximum speed under full combat load of 27 knots," said the publication, "much larger than the British prototype 'Provence'."

Kuwaitis to get Sawaber housing

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasser Al Roudhan has denied reports that the Al Sawaber Complex would be rented to government employees.

He said: "The reports are baseless, and absolutely wrong."

The housing units at the Sawaber Complex will be soon distributed to citizens, he said.

The complex is lying vacant due to the reluctance of Kuwaitis to accept the accommodation.

He said that out of 524 flats at the complex, only 198 remain to be distributed. Flats already distributed were given to citizens who applied for housing after 1975.

He added that the National Housing Authority (NHA) had granted easy facilities. Citizens will have to repay the total amount at the rate of KD40 per month. Even in payment of this amount, citizens will receive assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the official said.

Meanwhile, the minister disclosed that the Al Sawaber housing project constitutes a new experiment and some problems have surfaced. One such, he disclosed, is that the NHA pays about KD300,000 for maintenance, janitors and other employees working in the complex.

He said that one citizen had lost his flat at Al Sawaber Complex because he tried to alter and make adjustments to the electrical connection. Such practices are strongly discouraged.

Speaking of future housing projects, the minister said that the vertical system to be based on building residential complexes consisting of several floors is to be adopted.

However, he said that the height of the prospective complexes will be less than that of Al Sawaber Complex and will be based mainly on the back to back system.

He added that the NHA's next plan will include among other things the implementation of Al Sulabikhat Housing Project.

'Brain' found

Computer virus strikes in UAE

ABU DHABI, Dec. 27, (AP): The computer virus largely known as "brain" struck twice in Abu Dhabi Tuesday, a computer expert said.

"Fortunately... the virus only manifested itself and we managed to erase it without causing any damage," said Jeff Powers, sales manager of Alpha Data Computer Co. based in this capital city of the United Arab Emirates.

The "brain" virus manifested itself in the computers of a private company and a construction establishment, forcing them to go on low level format until it went away, Powers told the Associated Press. He would not give the names of the establishments.

Computer industry sources meanwhile disclosed that the "brain" was not the only computer virus discovered in Abu Dhabi and that so far at least five

major companies suffered a total loss of their hard disk memory.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said a prominent establishment recently lost its hard disk memory by another virus known as "marijuana," which first struck in India.

The same "marijuana" virus had been discovered and erased from the computers of a state-run oil company in Abu Dhabi before damaging their computers, the sources said.

Abu Dhabi and other Gulf region only recently started suffering from the computer virus strikes, which was not known here three months ago, the sources said.

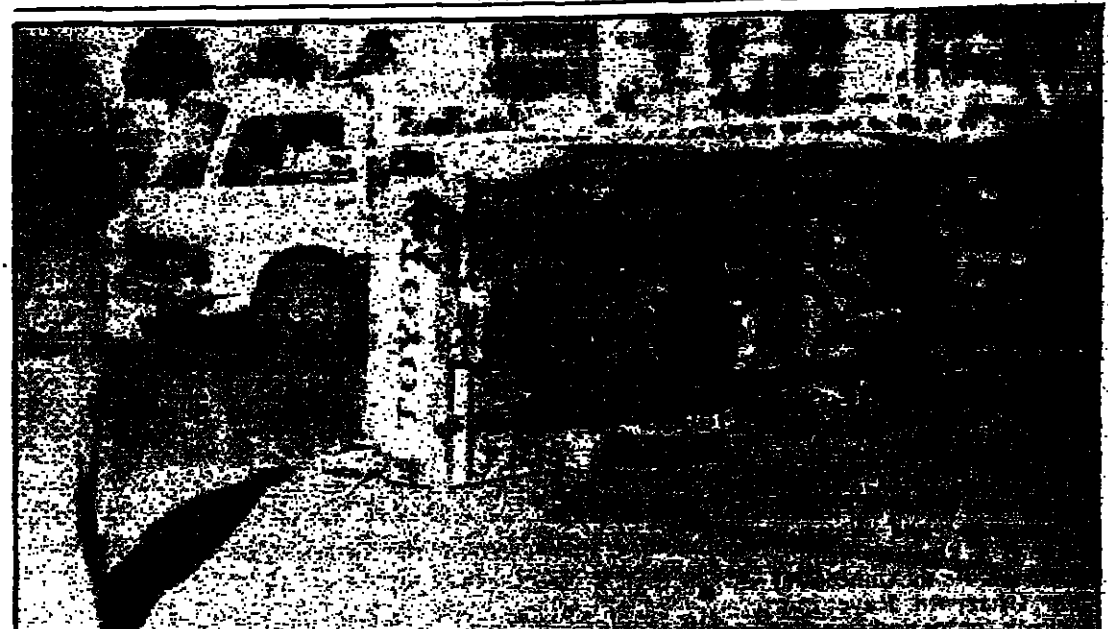
The first to bring the hazard to the open was the Arab Insurance Group, based in the central Gulf island state of Bahrain, which

reported in mid-December that it had received a floppy disk packaged as an "Aids information introduction diskette," but alert employees had discovered it before the loading.

The disk, purportedly one of 10,000 mailed from London, once loaded to give advice about the killer disease Aids, asks for a "licence fee" and warns that unless paid, there would be no way to decomputerise the eventual harm to the unit.

But while the Aids package is a regular sabotage, computer experts here blamed the pirated floppy disc sold in Abu Dhabi for only \$2.7 as the source for the other rampant viruses, advising computer users to use only original packages.

"Floppy disc piracy is not considered illegal in the UAE and other Gulf countries and that's actually our real problem," Powers said.



Car crash

A pickup truck lost control at the airport road and crashed into a car and turned over. No one was hurt.

Steps to revive market

Co-ops seek improvement

THE Chairman of the Kuwait Union of Foodstuff Producers Abdullah Mohammed Al Bana said that the union is preparing to launch a new stage of co-operative work at all levels, intended to increase market activity and resolve dealers problems.

He told Al Seyassah that technical aid will be made available to dealers by the union to resolve their problems with the Municipality, the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Consumer Societies, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Specifications and Standards and others.

The union will hold a special symposium on ways to resolve existing problems for members and various agencies to adopt recommendations and decisions that would be carefully implemented according to a well-studied explanatory memorandum on certain articles of the code on foodstuffs.

He said the union would also organise a series of training courses to upgrade the performance level of storekeepers and other sales staff.

He said that a union delegation had met top officials and talks centred on pricing policies.

He said a union delegation also conducted 21 interviews with the Kuwait Municipality acting director-general Sheikh Sabah Jaber Ali who showed considerable understanding and discussed the approval of solutions to step up the flexibility of and co-operation between the Municipality and the foodstuff producers and dealers.

The union will hold a special symposium on ways to resolve existing problems for members and various agencies to adopt recommendations and decisions that would be carefully implemented according to a well-studied explanatory memorandum on certain articles of the code on foodstuffs.

He said the union would also organise a series of training courses to upgrade the performance level of storekeepers and other sales staff.

He said that a union delegation had met top officials and talks centred on pricing policies.

He said a union delegation also conducted 21 interviews with the Kuwait Municipality acting director-general Sheikh Sabah Jaber Ali who showed considerable understanding and discussed the approval of solutions to step up the flexibility of and co-operation between the Municipality and the foodstuff producers and dealers.

The union will hold a special symposium on ways to resolve existing problems for members and various agencies to adopt recommendations and decisions that would be carefully implemented according to a well-studied explanatory memorandum on certain articles of the code on foodstuffs.

He said the union would also organise a series of training courses to upgrade the performance level of storekeepers and other sales staff.

He said that a union delegation had met top officials and talks centred on pricing policies.

He said a union delegation also conducted 21 interviews with the Kuwait Municipality acting director-general Sheikh Sabah Jaber Ali who showed considerable understanding and discussed the approval of solutions to step up the flexibility of and co-operation between the Municipality and the foodstuff producers and dealers.

The union will hold a special symposium on ways to resolve existing problems for members and various agencies to adopt recommendations and decisions that would be carefully implemented according to a well-studied explanatory memorandum on certain articles of the code on foodstuffs.

He said the union would also organise a series of training courses to upgrade the performance level of storekeepers and other sales staff.

He said that a union delegation had met top officials and talks centred on pricing policies.

He said a union delegation also conducted 21 interviews with the Kuwait Municipality acting director-general Sheikh Sabah Jaber Ali who showed considerable understanding and discussed the approval of solutions to step up the flexibility of and co-operation between the Municipality and the foodstuff producers and dealers.

The union will hold a special symposium on ways to resolve existing problems for members and various agencies to adopt recommendations and decisions that would be carefully implemented according to a well-studied explanatory memorandum on certain articles of the code on foodstuffs.

He said the union would also organise a series of training courses to upgrade the performance level of storekeepers and other sales staff.

He said that a union delegation had met top officials and talks centred on pricing policies.

API holds board meeting

KUWAIT'S Minister of Planning Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi said the importance of planning saying utmost efforts must be exerted to steer clear of financial problems.

Addressing the first meeting of the board of trustees of the Arab Planning Institute, he urged the board to make contacts with Arab states to discuss their contribution to the budget. The new charter of the API was also discussed.

Kuwait has submitted a proposal to avoid financial problems and budget expenditure.

Awadhi told reporters that the final draft of the next five-year plan — 1990/95 — would be completed by February.

Kala elects new officers

THE Kerala Art Lovers Association (Kala), Kuwait, has requested the government of Kerala to provide low cost housing scheme to rehabilitate the needy Gulf Malayalees.

This was discussed and unanimously approved at Kala's general body meeting, presided by its president R.S. Pillai, last week.

The participants also approved a memorandum to draw the attention of the central and state government in India. They have asked the government to alleviate the problems and hardships faced by the Gulf Malayalees. The Kerala government had proposed a scheme with a budget of Rs.750 crores to rehabilitate the non-residents who return home.

Kala has urged the implementation of the scheme. It has also called for adequate measures to reduce the unfavourable Air India fare to the Gulf sector,

reconsider the hike in airport charges and permit the free conveyance of dead bodies to the homeland.

Kala has also asked the Indian embassy in Kuwait to form a common fund to help the needy labourers.

Kala also elected new office bearers. They are: V.B. Jamal (president), V. Muralidharan (vice president), T.K. Narayanan (general sec.), V. Sivan Kutty (joint sec.), D. Thankappan (social sec.), Rajan Kilimanoor (arts sec.), Sam Pyttummodu (literary sec.), K.P. Chandran, Abdul Akbar, Rajan Ayiroor as executive members and T.K. Kannan, R.S. Pillai as auditors.

T.K. Kannan reviewed the annual report. T.K. Narayanan welcomed the members and V. Sivankutty proposed the vote of thanks. P.K. Abdulla, J. Albert, C. Bhaskaran and Mohan Vadanappally also addressed the gathering.

Arab chefs join the show

Trophies for best entries

By Yakub Razzaque
Arab Times staff

SPECIALITY cooks and chefs from around the Middle East have been invited to participate in the sixth Salon Culinare of the Middle East Food and Equipment Exhibition (Mofez) to be held in Bahrain from February 10 to 13 at the Exhibition Centre.

According to a report sent to the Arab Times the Australian Meat & Livestock Corporation will be sponsoring the Salon for the third time.

Nearly 700 invitations were sent early this month to top hotel executives and chefs of the Gulf's leading restaurants, according to the organisers of the culinary show. About 200 cooks, mostly from the GCC countries, are expected to vie for gold, silver and bronze medals in the Middle East's gastronomic 'Olympics'.

Stephen J. Martyn, AMLC's chief executive, Middle East commented: "We're looking forward to being a part of this prestigious show. We fully support this forum which

encourages excellence, creativity and originality in food preparation."

Among the 19 different competition categories, public demonstration of ice, vegetable or butter carving are very popular among the thousands of fairgoers at the semi-annual trade food show which began in 1980.

A category making its debut in the 1990 salon is an Arabian style lamb menu which permits regional cooks to show off their skills in preparing attractive, succulent Arabic dishes featuring whole or carved lamb, the report said.

The gastronomic entries are to be judged by a panel of three noted experts. A trophy of honour may be awarded to the competitor whose single or several entries exemplify "the best overall performance." If the judges choose to award the trophy, the organisers are adding a return flight to London as an enhancement to the recipient's gastronomic prowess.



Courtesy call

The Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Ahmad Al Humoud Al Jaber on Tuesday received a delegation from the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Intermediate School for Boys. The students paid a courtesy call to congratulate Sheikh Ahmad for taking up his new post. Picture shows Sheikh Ahmad with some of the students.

Graduation

THE Public Authority for Applied Education and Training recently held a ceremony to mark the end of specialised courses at the training centre. Participants included staff from the several ministries including Oil, Public Works, Commerce and Industry, Agriculture and Fisheries and a number of institutions and Kuwait University. Acting Director-General Hmoud Al Mudaf attended the closing ceremony. Al Mudaf and Dr Abdul Aziz Taqi handed over certificates to the 22 graduates (picture on right).



Audiences

● **CROWN PRINCE:** HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received at his dewan at Bayan palace Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Al Salem, Planning and Acting Public Health Minister, Dr Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadi.

Sheikh Saad also received Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Abdulaziz Al Rashid, Finance Minister Jassem Mohammad Al Khorafi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammad Al Osimi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhan Abdullah Al Othman.

He also met State Minister for Housing Affairs Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan, Minister for Electricity and Water Dr. Humoud Al Roudhan, Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Chazi Al Rayes, and Kuwait's permanent representative to United Nations Ambassador Mohammad Abu Al Hassan.

● **SHEIKH SABAH:** Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber yesterday received Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Communications Abdullah Al

Sharhan, and Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al Sabah.

● **SHEIKH NAWAF:** Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah yesterday received at his office Iraqi charge d'affaires to Kuwait. During the meeting, friendly talks were held.

● **SHEIKH SALEM:** Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday received at his office Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Kingdom Chazi Al Rayes, and Kuwait's permanent representative to United Nations Ambassador Mohammad Abu Al Hassan. Friendly talks were held.

● **SHEIKH JABER:** Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad yesterday separately received at his office ambassadors of Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Niger.

He also received Dr Ahmed Mustafa Abu Hakim of the Jordanian Adestor newspaper, Malek Alta.

● **GOVERNOR:** The Capital's Governor Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah yesterday received Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hussein Sediki. They exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

● **MUNICIPALITY:** Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Abdul Muhsein Al Rifai received Yugoslav Ambassador to Kuwait Hasan Dervisevic. They held cordial talks on issues of mutual interest.

Selective immigration top priority: Awadhi

Inflexibility hinders efforts

PLANNING Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi has said that negligence and inflexibility in implementing plans hinder planning efforts in Kuwait and the Third World.

Dr Awadhi said that the inherent weakness of co-ordination and co-operation among different bodies was also a problem.

He also hinted that selective immigration would be a vital feature of all future plans. Kuwaitis should be given an incentive to raise large families to increase the indigenous population, he added.

Speaking at a lecture at the Faculty of Commerce, he said that Kuwait's Five-Year-Plan is facing some challenges — specially the imbalance in population.

He went on to point out that due to the fall in oil revenues that started from the beginning of the 1980s, the government was forced to guide its public spending to avoid a deficit in its budget.

Awadhi disclosed that the deficit in the budget has been reduced from KD2,745 million in 1984/1985 to KD2,054 million in 1988/1989.

Returning to the imbalance in popula-

tion, Awadhi said that measures should be instituted to pragmatically address this issue which has resulted from the import of foreign manpower. He commented that another problem facing society is that national manpower does not prefer to work in the field of handicrafts and in many other productive services.

He clarified that national manpower prefers to work in the government sector because of its stability and security.

Awadhi pointed out that the imbalance in the population and other aspects do not serve the future ambitions of Kuwait society. He outlined them as:

- Continued influx of expatriate manpower without restrictions threatens the stability and security of society.
- Imbalance in combination of the population leads to instability of social structure, the domination of traditions and social values of the different communities living in Kuwait leads to the absence of a clear identity for Kuwaiti society.
- The stability and settlement of expatriate manpower led to an increase in non-productive expatriates (families); this increase the cost of services.

The reduction of Kuwaitis in the total manpower has led to the domination of expatriate manpower on different levels.

The absence of a connection between the increase of manpower and the increase of productivity.

Data of the development plan indicates that the biggest part of the national income is spent on traditional services and there is no indication for improvement in productivity.

The new plan 1990/1995 focuses on several methods to build the Kuwaiti citizen. Specifically, he said, these related to education, training, changing the combination of manpower and population. The manpower structure can be made by having a policy of "selective import of manpower" that gives priority to qualifications needed by Kuwait and not available among Kuwaitis.

Further, the official said that the private sector should be encouraged to employ the highest possible number of nationals and impart training, encourage Kuwaiti youths to obtain technical qualifications and also encourage Kuwaiti families to maintain the birth rate to increase the

population of Kuwaiti nationals.

He added that the five-year-plan envisages that the percentage of population of Kuwaitis will increase from 24.2 per cent in the base year 1985 to 28.1 per cent of total population in June 1990.

Awadhi said that the existence of a development strategy does not mean that the plan is being executed perfectly. The plan becomes useless if we do not abide by it and its amendments, he said. The next five-year-plan is being prepared in the light of principles of strategy of building Kuwaiti manpower because of its effect on the balance between population of Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis.

He added that Kuwait witnessed rapid developments in all fields from the beginning of the 1960s which compelled it to bring a large number of expatriate manpower to cater to the needs of education, health, social services and building the basic structure of the state which increase the immigration of expatriates to Kuwait. That stage was followed by a trend to stay and settle in Kuwait. He said that Kuwaiti nationals formed only 27.3 per cent of the total population in mid 1989.

Malaysia turns off Arabs

Bangkok preferred

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27, (Kuna): Tourists from Arab countries are reluctant to come to Malaysia due to the lack of direct flights and certain attractions that are provided by neighbouring countries, especially Thailand, Culture and Tourism Minister Sabbaruddin Chik said.

He told the current session of the senate here, Arabs were turned off by the idea that to come to Malaysia they would have to take flights by European airlines at 3 to 4 am, or go to Dubai from where Malaysia Airlines operates a direct flight.

However, efforts were being made to attract them such as promoting the "rainy season" as

a tourist attraction to Arabs who have never seen this natural phenomenon.

Another proposal was to sell package holidays, including accommodation in apartments for families, as Arabs were known not to prefer hotels.

About 2,000 such apartments have been proposed, he said.

Sabbaruddin said between 1986 and 1988, 10.2 million tourists visited Malaysia and generated revenue amounting to about US \$2.2 billion.

The government expects 3.95 million tourists during the Visit Malaysia year 1990. About US \$926,000 million in revenue is expected.

New bird market planned

KUWAIT Municipality plans to organise a new market to deal with all kinds of birds and domestic animals. It will be situated at the Al Rai Area, Ali Al Faras, deputy director of the municipality's food department said.

Speaking to a local daily on the issue, the official denied there are any plans to permanently shut down the Murgab pigeon market and clarified that it had been closed only for organisational purposes.

He added: "The pigeon market constitutes a traditional market and will continue to function in a more organised manner." According to the new organisational procedures, electricity will be connected to all shops at the market, the official said.

Navy to conduct annual exercise

THE annual naval exercises, conducted by the Kuwait Navy, will be held from Dec 30 to Jan 3. This was announced by the Defence Ministry yesterday. A ministry statement said the naval forces will not hold exercises on Jan 1. They will be held on the other days.

The exercises will be conducted in the region east of Zoor and between Umm Al Maraden and Karoun Islands. The ministry has prohibited sailors from approaching the islands of Kubbar and Karoun, and has asked them to keep away from that area.

China lauds GCC efforts for peace

NICOSIA, Dec 27, (Reuter): Chinese President Yang Shangkun expressed support today for efforts by the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to seek a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict, the Omani news agency reported.

Yang, 62, discussed the stalled UN-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq with Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman, who last week hosted a summit meeting of the six GCC leaders.

The Chinese president stressed his country will continue to support GCC efforts and the role of the UN Secretary-General "to break the deadlock, the agency quoted Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Alawi as saying.

China is one of the five permanent members in the Security Council, whose resolution 598 brought about a ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war 16 months ago.

But Iran and Iraq accuse each other of bad faith in negotiations on implementing other clauses of the resolution.

Yang, who earlier visited Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, is on his first foreign trip since Chinese forces violently crushed pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking in June.

Chinese and Western political analysts have said his tour is apparently aimed at countering Western political and economic sanctions imposed after the crackdown.

Crime file

10 years RI for rape

A MAN was sentenced to ten years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation, but given the option to pay a fine of KD200 to suspend the jail sentence.

The man was charged with raping his newly employed maid. The court was told that the maid had recently arrived in the country and was in the office of the recruiting agent when the accused informed her that he wanted to employ her as a maid at his house.

He escorted the maid to his car and took her to his garage where he raped her. He then took her to his house, but the next morning, he once again entered the room of the maid and raped her.

The maid then requested him to take her back to the recruiting office where, she narrated the incident to the owner who in turn informed the police.

Fined for negligence

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours fined two persons KD25 each on charges of negligence.

The court was told that the two defendants and another (who died in the tragic accident) poured benzene on the walls of their flat in Qadisiya area in an effort to get rid of insects.

Unfortunately, a short circuit in the electric current started a fire in which one of the accused died from burns sustained.

Armed robbers imprisoned

KUWAIT'S Court sentenced two men to four years imprisonment with hard labour for armed robbery.

An employee at an exchange shop reported to the court that at approximately 6.45 am the two accused asked for the exchange rate of the Iraqi dinar and the American dollar.

One of them threatened him with a pistol and asked him to hand over all the cash in the safe, while the other stood guard at the entrance of the shop.

The shop employee indicated that at the time of the incident the safe had KD11,000 and that he began screaming at which one of the accused fired the gun to scare the employee. However, he continued to call for help.

The accused ran away without taking any valuables, but were apprehended the next day by security personnel.

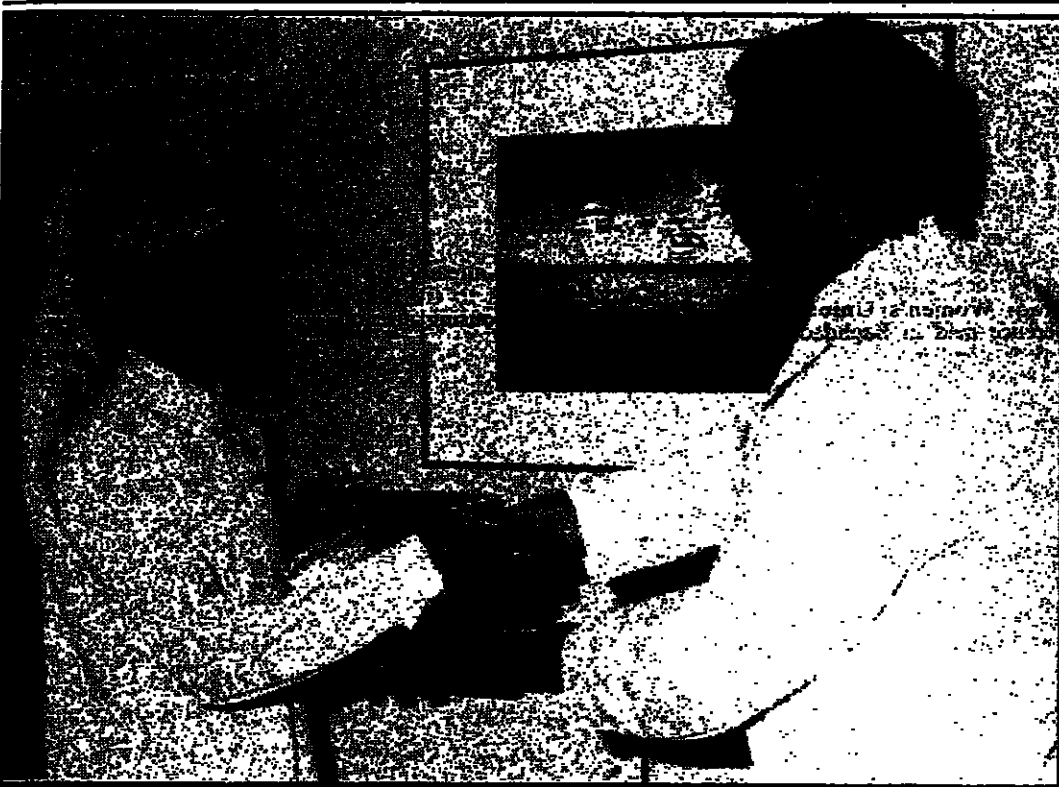
During the hearing, both convicts confessed that they were drunk at the time of the incident and did not know what they were doing.

Drug traders in custody

SECURITYMEN in Hawalli have arrested three men for possessing and selling drugs. An Interior Ministry statement identified them as Abbas K. (non-Kuwaiti) and Nasser A. and Ahmad A. (Kuwaitis). They were pushing drugs.

Information gathered against Abbas K. showed that he was selling drugs. He was caught while selling a piece of hashish. Investigators found a quantity of hashish from his apartment. Abbas confessed and named his two other accomplices, who were promptly arrested.

Their case is being investigated.



Al Nasar receiving the gift from a doctor.

Floating hospital a success

1,000th operation performed

SURGEONS on board the Soviet Floks floating eye hospital, have performed their 1,000th operation since the ship berthed in Jebel Ali just over two months ago.

The figures include three negative lens implantation operations performed by Prof. Victor Zuev on cases of severe myopia — the first time the technique has been used outside of the USSR.

"We are absolutely delighted with the response we have had," said Medical Director and Chief Surgeon Professor Yuri Neresov. "We are receiving, on average, around 115 patients a day for diagnosis and bookings so far have reached 6,000 most of which have come from GCC nationals."

The Floks project was the brainchild of famed Soviet eye surgeon, Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov the man who perfected many of the micro-surgery techniques practised on board including artificial lens implantation and radial keratotomy for short-sightedness.

Nineteen-year-old high school student, Youssef Al Nasar became the 2,000th patient to check on board the Floks floating eye hospital in Jebel Ali, Dubai.

To mark the occasion the young Qatari was presented with a special gift, a traditional Russian

cuckoo clock, by the hospital's chief surgeon and medical director, Professor Yuri Neresov.

Youssef, from Doha, decided to make the trip to Jebel Ali after reading a magazine interview with the man behind the Floks project, famed Soviet surgeon, Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov.

The floating eye hospital is built into a 10,000 ton former car carrier, the Petr Pavly which arrived in Jebel Ali in late October. It had been converted earlier this year into a hospital ship and cruise liner at a cost of US\$12.75m. Seven Fyodorov-trained surgeons are on board the ship which has a fully computerised diagnostics centre and multi-station operating theatre.

Dubai was chosen as its first major operation port of call because of the high demand from Gulf patients who were previously travelling to Russia for treatment at the world-renowned Moscow Eye Institute.

Among the ailments to be treated on board are myopia, hypermetropia, glaucoma, dystrophy, vitreous capacity, cataract removal and lens implantation.

The ship is scheduled to remain in Jebel Ali for a further four months.

No leniency for traffic violators

Official vows to get tougher

KUWAIT'S General Traffic Department has this year taken tough measures against motorists. Now Director General Brigadier Abdul Hameed Hajji Abdul Raheem has vowed to get tougher in 1990 and has said no leniency will be shown to recurrent offenders.

In an interview, he said: "We will go by the book." This means they will follow a recent directive given by the Minister of Interior and take tough measures against anyone who violates the traffic rules. Anyone overspeeding,

driving recklessly or crossing the red signal would be brought to task, and action taken against him, he said. Twenty motorists have been deported so far for repeating the offence of driving past red signals for more than two times.

The general traffic department will not allow people to ferry passengers in private cars, he said. If a private car owner takes money for ferrying a passenger, he will be fined, he said. Any violator who breaks any

traffic rule and repeats the offence would be deported. And this is not necessarily for crossing red signals, he said.

Strict penalties will also be enforced against Kuwaitis who violate the law, he said. "We will show no leniency for recurrent violators."

He hoped that with the strict implementation of the traffic law, the number of road accidents would drop next year. He also hoped people would be come more aware and learn some road sense.

REQUIRED COUNTER SALESMAN

To sell Hindi, Telugu, Tamil & Malayalam films in a video shop. Knowledge of this trade essential with transferable residence.

PALACE VIDEO
Sabana House, opp. Marqab Cinema
Tel: 2408270

అదృష్టవంతుడు
సినిమా రికార్డు
సెక్స్ రికార్డు
హిందీ, తెలుగు, తమిళం
సాఫ్ట్ వేర్ సాగర్
SAR TRACK VOL 3
BEST OF 89
జేమ్ కిలెం ఇన్ టౌన్
KHALEEJIA VIDEO
☎ 240 18 90

بروزنی فیلم

Daily New Film
Collection 89
Super hit songs
جسٹ ہٹ گیتوں کی مجموعہ

JUZER AL KHALIJ VIDEO
Opp. Marqab Police Station
Tel: 2403255

కూనా క్రిసింకా
అవ్వల సాఫ్ట్ వేర్ (N.T.R.)
మరణమందిరం
కామమ
అవ్వల సాఫ్ట్ వేర్
సెక్స్ ట్రాక్
జేమ్ కిలెం ఇన్ టౌన్
సాఫ్ట్ వేర్ సాగర్
Khalaf Video Center
Opp. Sabana House - Marqab

RELEASING TODAY

Good Bye 89
Part-I Top 35
Part-II Top 34

Selected songs of 89
Selected songs of 89



CANARY VIDEO

Sharq-2429129

OBITUARY



Dominic J. Ferrao
Expired on 26.12.89
In Poona, India
Inserted by sorrowing
wife Liban, son
Raymond, daughters
Marie, Libby, Flora,
Patty, daughter-in-law
Nataline, son-in-law
Peter, grandchildren &
relatives.



Computer course

Fourteen non-commissioned officers were yesterday awarded certificates by Lt. Col. Mohammad Al Fahad. They had completed a three weeks training course on computers. The ceremony was held at the Institute for Non-Commissioned Officers.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IT'S the mind that makes the body rich — William Shakespeare, English playwright (1564-1616).

US' special relations with Europe change

BRUSSELS, (UPI): With a change in personalities and geopolitics has come a shift in trans-Atlantic relations — Britain is losing its long-held position of first among equals in the United States' relations with Europe.

"The special (US) relationship with Britain is dead, if it ever was alive," said professor Gordon Smith of the London School of Economics and Political Science. "The United States is picking West Germany as the main player in the European game."

Two recent meetings illustrated the shift in emphasis in US policy. The first leader President Bush met with after his summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who outlined his plans for the eventual unification of East and West Germany.

Before briefing other NATO leaders, Bush also met with Jacques Delors, commission president of the 12-nation European Economic Community.

After a Dec 4 NATO meeting Bush urged swifter integration of the European Economic Community so it can act "as a magnet that draws the forces of reform toward Eastern Europe."

His statement irritated British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who has moved slowly toward closer ties with Europe to protect British sovereignty.

The White House felt that the British press had gone overboard in asserting Bush had slighted Thatcher, and he called Thatcher to try to soothe her ruffled feelings.

While Bush is sympathetic with Thatcher in trying to hold Britain's place preeminent and secure in the Common Market, he knows she will not prevail.

And much as they may try, there obviously is not the same chemistry between Thatcher and Bush as she had with former President Reagan. Bush and Thatcher are much more formal with each other. The rapport is not there.

Thatcher's one-day trip Nov 24 to Camp David, Maryland, to confer with Bush shows a growing concern on her part. But Bush has tried to keep a balance by touching base with Kohl and France's Francois Mitterrand every time he is in contact with Thatcher, mitigating what was once known as the "special relationship" between Washington and London.

Bush has good relations with Kohl and they talk often by telephone. He has developed some rapport with Mitterrand, who visited him in Kennebunkport, Maine, and will meet with him again this month in the Caribbean.

Bush understands Thatcher's problems, but he has problems of his own.

He is trying to find out what the US role will be in the new European order.

No sign of an end to Northern Ireland strife

LONDON, (UPI): It is 21 years since the latest round of strife began in Northern Ireland and no sign of the end is in sight.

Political and economic changes have been tried over two decades with limited positive results.

Other efforts, such as the current cooperation between the British and Irish Republic governments against terrorism, merely have exacerbated the situation.

The problem remains the same: how to get two warring tribes to live together in peace?

A fight begun more than 380 years ago will not be resolved immediately. But a movement is under way that might yield a solution.

Its aim is for Catholic and Protestant children to be educated together, studying the same history, playing the same games, learning each other's religious convictions. The hope is that later life they will live and work together.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the divide between Catholic and Protestant was absolute. The Protestant majority ruled absolutely, both politically and economically.

The minority are the descendants of the Catholics who called Ulster their own until 1608, when King James I of England gave the land to Protestant Scots to ensure a friendly neighbouring territory.

Catholics, deprived of their land and living, never mixed socially, rarely intermarried with the Protestants. They lived in separate parts of town, went to different churches and, above all, different schools.

One never asked a Northern Irish resident which church he attended. The question always was where did he go to school because it answered everything: who he was, his religion, where and how well he lived.

Children at the Protestant schools played soccer or rugby in the winter. Those at the Catholic school played Gaelic football. Cricket or tennis marked the Protestant summer, hurling the Catholic. Hurling is an Irish game resembling field hockey and played between two teams of 15 players each.

Protestant parents were scandalized by their offspring kicking a ball on Sunday, the day Catholics gathered to watch their team sports.

Protestants attended the government schools. Catholics set up their own.

And now?

For 95 per cent of the population, nothing has changed. Protestant children still sing the British national anthem and wave the British flag. Their history lessons teach them of the might of empire and the wars Britain fought and won. They can recite the succession of the kings and queens of England and their reigns.

Catholic children learn of the harsh treatment by the English of the Irish over the centuries, how they were starved of food and robbed of land.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1836 — Spain recognizes independence of Mexico.

1908 — Earthquake hits South Calabria, Italy, and Sicily.

1917 — Bessarabia proclaims independence as Moldavian Republic.

1938 — Iraq severs relations with France.

1942 — Japanese planes bomb Calcutta, India, in World War II.

1948 — Premier Nokrashy Pasha of Egypt is assassinated.

1950 — Chinese forces cross 38th parallel in Korea.

1962 — United Nations troops engage in heavy fighting in Katanga.

1966 — China detonates its fifth atomic bomb.

1968 — Israeli commandos raid Beirut Airport, destroying 13 Arab aircraft.

1970 — Military court in Spain sentences six Basque separatists to death.

1972 — Four Arab commandos hold six hostages in Israeli embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, for 19 hours, then free their prisoners and fly to Cairo, Egypt.

1974 — Leftist guerrillas in Managua, Nicaragua, invade Christmas party for US ambassador, kill three guards and take several prominent Nicaraguans as hostages.

1975 — Efforts are made to rescue 372 men trapped by coal mine explosion in northeastern India. All 372 are killed.

1984 — Cambodian guerrillas counter-attack for fourth straight day despite withering artillery fire from Vietnamese occupying refugee camp along Thai-Cambodia border.

1986 — Excursion train lets off its 180 passengers in Tokyo, then plunges off a bridge, killing six people, most of them in a factory below.

1987 — Dozens of Palestinian teenagers appear before military courts in occupied West Bank for rioting in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

1988 — Sudan's largest trade union federation calls nationwide strike to protest government-ordered price increases.

East European upheaval

Euro-Arab conference overshadowed

PARIS, (Reuters): Arab and West European leaders met in Paris this week to strengthen their links, but attention was distracted from regional concerns by the East bloc political upheaval.

France, current chairman of the European Economic Community (EEC), had called the foreign ministers of the 22 Arab League states and 12 EEC countries to a grand conference relaunching a Euro-Arab dialogue which broke down in recriminations six years ago.

France, which hands over the EEC chairmanship at the year's end, wanted to crown it with a dramatically successful finale, and its European partners were anxious to reassure Arab countries that the new world order in the making would not leave them on the sidelines, diplomats said.

But the uprising in Romania was already the centre of world attention when experts met on Thursday. News that Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu had fallen on Friday reached the conference centre one hour after the first ministerial meeting of all 34 countries began.

The EEC Ministers met alone in the afternoon to co-ordinate reaction to the Romanian crisis and events in Eastern Europe were a major theme of speeches by French President Francois Mitterrand and King Hassan of Morocco, the chairman of the most recent Arab summit.

"Closer links between the two Europes, which have been separated for too long, will not be at the expense of solidarity and the ties of all kinds which unite the 12 member states with their Arab and other neighbours," Mitterrand said.

King Hassan said European countries were not the only ones to follow developments in Eastern Europe.

"West European countries alone cannot shoulder the whole of the economic and social burden... why don't we (the Arab world) participate with our energies, our riches?" he added.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis suggested that eventually the Helsinki treaty, which institutionalised security and co-operation arrangements between East and West, should cover rela-

tions with Europe's Mediterranean neighbours. Ministers and diplomats said the Euro-Arab meeting was a great success on its own terms, deliberately modest because of the background of excessive expectations which drove the dialogue off the rails in the past.

The ministers agreed to formalise annual meetings between the EEC's troika of three foreign ministers and a similar group of three Arab ministers, and to press ahead with seven joint projects including a convention on protecting investments and seminars on petrochemicals and cultural relations.

Most of the projects were already at an advanced stage in working committees which struggled on after the main institution of the dialogue — the so-called general commission — held its last meeting in Athens in 1983.

The French hosts, in arranging the meeting, avoided the pitfall of trying to prepare a political communiqué setting out all the points of agreement between the two regional groupings.

Communist elite plunge

From privilege to penury

VIENNA, (Reuters): After decades in power, some Eastern European leaders are plunging from privilege to penury.

The whirlwind of political change that swept communist hardliners from government in Prague, East Berlin, Sofia and Bucharest has also exposed long-secret excesses of their luxury lifestyle, and turned former figures of fear into figures of fun.

In Bucharest, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena were executed and a new government named on Tuesday.

In East Germany, disgraced former leader Erich Honecker is under house arrest pending criminal investigation in the luxury wooded compound built to house the Communist Party's ruling elite.

His flashy French limousines are up for sale, his numerous hunting residences sealed and the man who ruled East Germany for two decades is reportedly a broken man.

"It is difficult for him to understand everything," said Guenter Wolf, Honecker's personal security adviser for 26 years. "his whole world has collapsed."

In Bulgaria, the once-regal family of ousted hardliner Todor Zhivkov are pilloried daily by the same newspapers which smugled with compliments less than two months earlier.

While the country's new leadership debates whether it would be best to turn Zhivkov's 30 residences into children's homes or Western-style hotels, there are growing popular demands that the man who was Eastern Europe's longest-serving leader be brought to trial for corruption.

In Czechoslovakia, top Communist Party officials who survived the upheavals of the last fortnight are keeping a low profile, suddenly preferring humble East bloc cars to state limousines amid mounting calls for a full disclosure of party spending.

"Nobody's been charged with corruption yet," one Czechoslovak journalist commented. "But the rumblings are growing and it won't be long."

In all countries those rumblings have been fed chiefly by unleashed state media that have turned against their former masters to disclose long-hidden secrets about party privilege, excess and corruption.

East German journalists who invaded the party's top-security Wandlitz compound gleefully inspected the comfortable cream houses, heated swimming pool, cinema, and delicatessen that for years shielded the elite from the deprivation of the people they ruled.

Many of those leaders could face trial for corruption and embezzlement of state funds.

"What arrogance, what estrangement from the people must have been at the root of such evil!" stormed the national Zeitung daily in an attack on former trade union chief Harry Tisch who whisked guests around a 107-hectare (264-acre) private hunting estate in expensive Western cars. "The people's outrage is colossal."

In Bulgaria, where jubilant dissenters took to the streets to burn photographs and cartoons of



Ceausescu is shown on Romanian television on Dec 21 as he addresses a crowd in Bucharest's main square. (Reuters wirephoto)

Zhivkov, new leader Petar Mladenov was swift to close an exclusive party shop in a Sofia hotel that sold Western delicacies, and pledged to reveal details of his predecessor's mismanagement.

In Czechoslovakia, opposition pressure has thrown open the imposing doors of the party's exclusive Praha Hotel, revealing palatial suites, a luxury sports centre and a cinema where officials could enjoy private screenings of Western films they had banned. The hotel will open on a commercial basis at the beginning of next year.

East bloc analysts say the party elite in Prague, Sofia, East Berlin and Bucharest emulated the

extravagances of their now-disgraced mentor Leonid Brezhnev, the former Soviet leader, who amassed country retreats, hunting reserves and Western cars.

Recounting sensationalist tales of life with the Ceausescu family, former Romanian intelligence chief Ion Pacepa claimed the Romanian leader kept underground vaults stuffed with dollars to lavish Western cars on his children or diamonds on his wife.

"Ceausescu and his family have never paid for anything in the past twenty years," Pacepa wrote in his book "Red Horizons."

Legislation of parties in Yugoslavia

Communist hardliners upset

BELGRADE, (AP): The legalisation of a multi-party system in some Yugoslav republics has upset communist hardliners in other regions and aggravated deep tensions threatening national unity.

In a landmark decision, Croatia's ruling Communist Party on Wednesday endorsed a multi-party system and free elections. The move paved the way for the first non-Marxist government in the republic since 1945, when the communist consolidated power in all of Yugoslavia.

Communists in Slovenia, the liberal republic to the north of Croatia, already allow numerous opposition political parties and groups and plan to permit the region's first free Western-style legislative elections next spring.

In contrast, Serbia's communist authorities

under President Slobodan Milosevic are vehemently opposed to the introduction of Western-style political pluralism, both in Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics, and on the federal level.

The official argument offered by Serbia's communist hierarchy is that one-party control is needed to keep the lid on centuries of latent ethnic tensions that have resurfaced since the death in 1980 of Josip Broz Tito, the authoritarian founder of communist Yugoslavia.

Much of the recent unrest has centred on the province of Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians form a majority of more than 90 per cent. Kosovo is part of Serbia but not fully subject to its control.

The Serbian leadership contends that opposition parties in Kosovo and elsewhere would form along

ethnic lines and thus fuel ethnic tensions. This view is shared by Yugoslavia's military leadership.

Despite such strong opposition, numerous independent groups and parties have sprung up in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Macedonia, where communists have in the past tried to stifle the issue of democratic reforms.

Several independent groups have been banned in Serbia and two leading nonconformists, Rade Radovanovic and Nebojsa Popov, are currently on trial in Belgrade for taking part in the illegal work of one of the movements.

In an apparent attempt to stifle the rise of democratic trends in Yugoslavia, Serbia last month severed all political and business ties with rival Slovenia.

Turkey faces new Europe with old fears

ANKARA, (Reuters): Turkey is facing a new Europe with some old fears as East-West barriers crumble.

"Turkey perceives all sorts of skeletons emerging from closets from an Ottoman past and what it saw as the break up of an empire helped by foreigners," one Western diplomat said.

"They see some of the historical things occurring which concerns them about their territorial integrity."

Turkish fears range from being sidelined by the West in a tough geographic location to an increase in its ethnic problems.

Cautious is the watchword in Turkey, which for some 150 years has seen its future with the West, as it views the upheavals in Eastern Europe.

"Turkey is observing these changes closely and with care," Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut told Turkish reporters.

Officials insist that a strong Turkey, which has the largest armed forces in the NATO Western alliance after the United States, is in interest of the West.

It guards a third of NATO's borders with Warsaw Pact countries and is concerned that the Soviet Union will retain formidable home forces even if it

does withdraw from parts of Eastern Europe.

One senior diplomat said: "Turkey is watching developments with great concern. It is in an area which is still dangerous... NATO has been the foundation of its security."

"In the next three to five years, I think an emphasis will remain on NATO and its needs for maintaining cohesion," he said.

Some Turkish commentators say Turkey, whose Eximbank has already tempted Poland and Hungary with credits, should seek a more active role in Eastern Europe.

"If Turkey says: Wait, let us see what happens. Then we'll decide what our policy is, it will miss its piece of the cake," Mehmet Ali Birand wrote in the liberal daily Milliyet.

"Countries will open their doors to those who were with them in their most difficult days."

Turkey's neighbour Bulgaria, Greece, Iraq and Syria were all under the Ottoman heel. It has deep historical differences with the Soviet Union and ties with revolutionary Iran are not easy.

"Turkey sees a rise in age-old ethnic-type animosities, some triggered by perestroika and glas-

nost," one diplomat said.

These range from problems faced by ethnic Turks in Bulgaria to assertions of Armenian nationalism in the Soviet Union and French interest in Kurdish autonomy.

Ankara raised the spectre last week of militants from two old ethnic foes, Armenians and Kurds, joining in a widening guerrilla war for Kurdish independence in the rugged southeast.

The mainly Muslims but secular Turkish republic was born in 1923 from a dying empire, which left ethnic Turks in the Balkans and other former Ottoman lands.

Its major borders were defined by the 1923 treaty of Lausanne. This succeeded the 1920 treaty of Sèvres which would have carved out Armenian and Kurdish homelands.

A senior Western diplomat said: "The people who run Turkey want to see a strong Western-orientated state deeply involved with the West, including economic ties."

"Turkey has always been concerned about its acceptability in the West. It knows its heritage is different but that is the way it wants to go."

Turmoil releases waves of humour

EAST BERLIN, (AP): Lights and decorations brightened the city on both sides of the Berlin Wall during the Christmas season, but dark humour holds sway in the streets of the still-divided city.

For decades, jokes poking fun at the once-mighty communist regime remained among family and friends in East Berlin, but the biting humour surfaced openly this fall with the decline of the communists and the secret police.

Most of the jokes floating across the now-porous borders focus on ousted East German leader Erich Honecker and the corrupt Communist Party he once headed, as well as the rotten economic situation he left behind.

A favourite joke concerns the future of the East German flag with the familiar compass and sickle emblem embroidered on the orange and black national colours. An unadorned version serves as the West German flag.

"What is the new emblem for the flag?" goes the question. "A suitcase," is the answer — a reference to the more than 320,000 East Germans who have left for West Germany in search of a better life this year alone.

Although Honecker, who is reportedly seriously ill, was stripped of power on Oct 18 and has been in seclusion ever since, variations of jokes about him are told over and over in bars, stores and taxis.

"Why has Honecker checked into a hotel on the Hungarian border?" asks one East German. "Because all the best doctors pass by there," replies another.

Other jokes concern the East German Communist Party, which has lost about 700,000 members since the political trouble began earlier this year.

"What does a party member who finds one new party member get?" went a joke that circulated during a recent party congress that swept away remnants of the old guard. "He gets to leave the party."

"What does a party member who enrolls 10 new members get?" The joke continues. "A certificate that he was never a party member," goes the reply.

Some of the jokes are simply unprintable. Not all of the humour is aimed at East Germany. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a target of sometimes vicious jokes in his homeland, has found similar treatment in East Germany.

"Wir wollen keine vertoklung," read one banner at an anti-reunification rally this week in East Germany. The phrase literally means "we don't want to be smothered in coal," and expresses the fears of some East Germans that their country will simply be absorbed economically by the economic power house next door.

Some East Germans have welcomed the West German leader. "Lieber Kohl als sauerkraut," or "Better Kohl than sauerkraut," read one banner displayed in Dresden during Kohl's trip there earlier this week. The word Kohl means cabbage in German.

Quote me

"Where against military means... we stand for peaceful solutions, and we will use them to solve problems in the Soviet Union. After this work is carried out, the resolution undertaken to recall the plenum of the Communist Party central committee and take the corresponding decision." — Moscow's ideology chief Vadim Medvedev discounting use of force in Lithuania.

"We come from a divided and wounded land, and we know we have come to a divided and wounded land. One detects a sobriety of spirit. The service that we attended in Beit Sahour was eloquent testimony to that." — Reverend Michael Nuttal, a white man and dean of the Anglican diocese in South Africa, told worshippers in the occupied territories.

"In the common conviction of the allied states, the destiny of the country in the hands of the Romanian people and despite the bitter resistance of the forces of totalitarianism, they will win the struggle for freedom and democracy. Taking this into account, the allies agreed... to avoid any collective actions that could remind one of practices of the past." — Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Ivan Abramov counting out Soviet military intervention in Romania.

"Don't forget that the people of Eastern Europe display the same gesture as the Palestinians in the occupied territories: 'the V for victory'." — Yasser Arafat refusing claims that Palestinians fought along pro-Ceausescu forces in Romania.

"As you face yet another Christmas without the comfort of your families and without the freedom we all take for granted, the best message we can send you is that you have not been and will not be forgotten." — A letter to US hostages in Lebanon from "The Journalists' Committee to Free Anderson."

"May this find you and bring all the gifts we have of love, hope, comfort and spirit. We wait for you — we miss you, do not live without you." — X-mas message to Thomas Sutherland, also in captivity in Lebanon.

"The worms never get satisfied, regardless of how much food you give them." — Elena Ceausescu was quoted as saying.

"I see this as a climax of the virtues of Romanian people over the centuries. Our people have sacrificed for freedom. We have in ourselves a love for what is beautiful and just, but one cannot express this at any time. When the time comes, this sort of explosion. The time is come." — The Romanian Patriarch Teoctist upon being asked where Romanians got their courage to rise against Ceausescu.

"For so many years now the church has been told to remain out of politics. Now the state is admitting that the churches have an important role to play in the future dispensation." — Nico Smith of the Dutch Reformed Church upon an invitation from De Klerk on South Africa's future.

"A few hours after the heavy fighting started in Debre Tabor, Gen. Haile Meles, Gen. Abete Haile Selassie and other army officers left their troops behind and retreated by aircraft to Gondar." — Ethiopian rebel spokesman claiming the fleeing of two generals during a battle.

"This is a very sad day for Hong Kong. It was an act of violence to drag children from their beds at 3 am. It was well-prepared and well thought out. But they haven't thought out the reaction from abroad. We just do not know what will happen to them." — A Hong Kong University lecturer on the forced repatriation of Vietnamese boat people to Vietnam.

"Having bravely pronounced a strong standard (of human rights), having seen it rejected by the Chinese government, the President now knows that that government is a most unsteady and embarrassing and unfortunate way. This is an unmistakable message to every leader in the world — and it is the wrong message for the United States to be sending — precisely the wrong message." — Sen. George Mitchell assailing Bush for his opening to China after pro-democracy crackdown by the government.

MIDEAST

Israel confirms Iran oil deal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec. 27, (Reuters) Israel, breaking 10 days of silence, has acknowledged it bought oil from Iran. "I was informed of the matter," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told Israeli reporters in Beersheba late yesterday when asked about the purchase.

A senior Foreign Ministry official today confirmed the minister's acknowledgment of the Israeli-Iran deal, which the American television network NBC reported was linked to efforts to free Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon.

At least one of six missing Israeli soldiers is held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Israel previously declined comment on an

NBC report of Dec 17 that it paid \$36 million for two million barrels of Iranian oil unloaded in Eilat in mid-November.

The deal recalled the embarrassing Iran-Contra scandal that shook the administration of former US President Ronald Reagan when it became known that Israel, with US approval, shipped arms to Iran in a proposed swap for prisoners in 1985.

NBC said Israel hoped to use the November oil deal to free its soldiers and possibly Westerners held in Lebanon. It said Washington, anxious to free US hostages believed held by pro-Iranian groups, had given its blessing. Israeli legislators complained yesterday they were not briefed on Israel's secret deal-

ings with Iran but Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin dismissed the criticism, saying there were no direct contacts.

The national news agency Itim said members of the parliament's subcommittee for secret services complained that the government kept secret the oil deal and as well as a substantial part of contacts aimed at gaining freedom for captive Israeli soldiers.

"How come we hear about the deal from an NBC news report? I'm afraid other sensitive security subjects are concealed as well," Israel's armed forces radio quoted head of the parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, Elisha Ben Eliazar, as saying.

Jordan moves to end ML

Criminal cases go to civil courts

AMMAN, Dec 27, (Reuters) Jordan has announced new steps towards scrapping martial law imposed since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the official news agency Petra said.

The government removed politically-related offences from martial law jurisdiction which would now cover only treason, espionage and other serious national security matters.

Lawyers and police officials said the decision meant a de facto abrogation of martial law.

Martial law, sparingly used during the past 22 years, has drawn criticism from human rights activists who say it allowed some abuses by the security forces, including torture and detention without trial.

Petra also said a ministerial team would consider how to deal with offences against state security, embezzlement of public funds, bribery and fraud as well as economic and financial crimes when martial law is formally removed.

The committee would report its findings within two months.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told parliament last week that martial law should be "frozen" and would soon be formally abolished.

Lawyers said the most important cases removed from the jurisdiction of military courts were offences dealing with the violation of a firearms law, an anti-communism law and other offences regarding membership of banned political parties.

Jordan forbade all political parties in 1957 after a leftist attempt to topple King Hussein. The ban has not been lifted, although King Hussein has promised his three million subjects a new national charter that would lay the groundwork for a multi-party system.

Other offences such as assault on civil servants, members of the armed forces or police while on duty and violation of orders issued by military governors were also transferred to civil courts.

Forging money or passports, murder and attempted murder were also switched to civil courts.

Under martial law, many criminal offences have been removed from the power of the regular criminal courts and are tried by a special military tribunal of three army officers.

The tribunal's judgement cannot be appealed but must be approved by the military governor general (the prime minister)

and, in the case of the death sentence, by the king and the council of ministers.

Deputy Issa Mdanat, a communist, told United Press International he and other deputies felt the change was positive but insufficient.

"Last week one man was sentenced to four years in prison because he was distributing leaflets supporting a candidate in the elections and the leaflet was signed by the Jordanian Communist Party," Mdanat said.

"What we really want is to cancel martial law completely."

Other deputies expressed similar views and called for the immediate cancellation of martial law.

The deputies said the state of martial law has affected the daily lives of Jordanian citizens and prohibited any form of free expression.

"We as a people call and have been calling since 1967 for the cancellation of martial law," Deputy Mansour Murad said. "I call for immediate cancellation of martial law," he said.

Deputies contacted by UPI said Tuesday's decision will not affect their decision to grant Badran's newly appointed government a vote of confidence.



An armed Lebanese Communist Party fighter stands near his base destroyed during the Israeli airborne attack on south Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Call for hostage release

Lebanon protests against Israel

BEIRUT, Dec 27, (AP) The government today appealed to all kidnappers in Lebanon to release their hostages.

Lebanon also said it was lodging an urgent complaint with the United Nations Security Council against Israel's latest ground and air attacks that left 12 people killed and 31 wounded.

"On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, the president, the prime minister and the council of ministers appeal jointly to all hostage-holders to release them," an official statement said.

It was read to reporters by Information Minister Edmond Rizk after a two-hour cabinet meeting held under President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Selim Hoss at an army base in East Lebanon's Bekaa valley.

The plea is likely to have no impact on pro-Iranian factions holding most of the 18 Western hostages in Lebanon because government authority has been eroded by 14 years of civil war between Muslims and Christians.

Hoss' office said in a statement instructions were being transmitted to Lebanon's UN mission to submit the complaint against this blatant aggression, "without asking for a council debate."

The attacks came 12 hours apart yesterday.

Paratroopers backed by tanks and helicopter gunships destroyed a guerrilla base of the Communist Party in southeast Lebanon before dawn and warplanes blasted a communist command post at sunset.

Rescuers worked under spotlights overnight to dig out victims from the rubble of the two-storey command post in the coastal town of Rmeile, 20 miles (32 kilometres) south of Beirut.

Police said the final casualty toll of the Rmeile attack stood at 10 killed and 28 wounded, the heaviest among Israel's 18 air raids on Lebanon this year.

That toll surpassed a similar raid on pro-Iranian Hezbollah, bases in south Lebanon last Aug 27, which left nine guerrillas killed and 27 wounded.

In southern Lebanon, rival Shiite militias battled through a fifth day in the Iqlim Al Tuffah.

Police said eight people were killed and 37 wounded in artillery and tank fire duels yesterday and today between the fundamentalist Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal militia.

That raised the overall toll to 46 people killed and 187 wounded since the current round of fighting erupted Saturday.

Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammed Besharati later today announced

a ceasefire accord to end the fighting.

"We officially announce a ceasefire as of 10.00 pm (2000 GMT) this evening," Besharati told a news conference at the Iranian embassy in Muslim West Beirut after a four-hour meeting with officials of the Hezbollah.

Besharati said he had contacted Amal leader Nabih Berti who accepted the ceasefire accord under which the two militias would pull back to the positions they held before the fighting.

Hezbollah, trained and equipped by Iran, has seized five villages from Amal since the fighting erupted.

Besharati arrived in Lebanon earlier today with the Iranian Ambassador to Damascus, Mohammed Akhtari, and Mahmoud Hashemi Rafsanjani, brother of the Iranian president.

Thousands of supporters of Lebanon's largest Christian militia massed in East Beirut yesterday to show support for its policy towards their country's 15-year-old civil war.

The Security Council, meanwhile failed to issue a statement in support of Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and his efforts in implementing the Taif peace accord.

Afghan rebels vow to fight till victory

More than 200 arrested in Kabul coup plot

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Dec 27 (Agencies) Afghan rebel leaders today marked the 10th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, vowing to continue their struggle to overthrow the Kabul government Moscow put in place.

Rallies were held in desolate refugee camps which dot north west frontier province and are home to more than three million people who fled after Soviet troops poured into Kabul in 1979 to install Babrak Kamal in power.

"We will continue our struggle until the puppet regime collapses," Sighatullah Mojaddidi, president of the Afghan Interim Government brokered accord had done nothing to end the Jihad, or holy war, of the rebels.

"The reasons and motivations behind the jihad still exist in Afghanistan," he said. "We are fighting against the communists in Kabul."

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a radical who heads the fundamentalist Hezb-i-Islami rebel group, told 20,000 people at the Hyatabad Refugee Camp near Peshawar that Afghans would never tolerate a puppet government in Kabul installed by the United States.

"Afghans have proved to the Soviets that they cannot be ruled by foreign forces and they will show the same to the Americans if they try to instal a government of their liking in Afghanistan," Hekmatyar told cheering supporters.

The last Soviet troops left Afghanistan in February. The government of President Najibullah remains entrenched, defying predictions it would collapse within weeks of the pullout.

Hekmatyar, officially foreign minister of the AIG, has been at loggerheads with fellow mujahideen leaders since last August when he suspended participation in the government.

The AIG is under increasing pressure from the United States and Pakistan to end its bitter divisions and create a united front to speak for all anti-Najibullah forces in Peshawar and Tehran.

American officials visiting Pakistan have warned rebel leaders unless they unite in the next few months US Congress may become reluctant to continue funding for the war.

Also today, Western diplomats in Islamabad said the latest reports indicate the communist government, which the Red Army left behind in Afghanistan in February, has arrested more than 200 people in a recent coup plot.

Tens of thousands of Afghan rebels and their supporters burned effigies and listened to impassioned speeches at refugee camps around Pakistan.

They vowed to keep fighting and pledged to replace the Marxist administration with a rebel-run, Muslim government.

About 100,000 Soviet troops intervened in Afghanistan in December 1979 to replace one pro-Moscow government with another. They stayed on to help fight the insurgency that began when the Afghan communist seized power in 1978.

Soviet forces fought the rebels for nine years before completing a phased withdrawal Feb 15. The Kremlin continues massive military supplies to the Kabul government.

The communists still hold Afghanistan's major cities, but the rebels control most of the countryside.

Western diplomats in Islamabad, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the people's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has arrested more than 200 people in the latest outbreak of factional infighting in Kabul.

Officials in Kabul reported only the arrest of about 100 clandestine Hekmatyar supporters earlier this month. However, Western diplomats allege that it was a coup plot among members of the Afghan Army.

An estimated 2 million Afghans have fled the civil war to neighbouring Pakistan and 1 million went to Iran.

(AIG), told a rally at the Nasirbagh Camp near Peshawar, home of the government-in-exile.

AIG Information Minister Najibullah Lafrate urged international pressure to stop Moscow sending supplies and military advisors to Kabul.

The Afghan rebels, or mujahideen, claim Soviet experts still direct the firing of Soviet surface-to-surface missiles at their forces inside Afghanistan.

In Islamabad, the head of the AIG's news service Abdul Rahim told reporters the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers under a United Nations-



Relatives of victims of the Afghan war lay flowers at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow, during a ceremony marking Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Deported Iranian arrives home: An Iranian student deported from Britain for "reasons of national security" arrived on Wednesday in Tehran and accused the British police of subjecting him to mental and physical torture during interrogation.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency said Karen Abrinia, a 32-year-old engineering student in Manchester, England, was met on arrival at Mehrabad airport by delegations from the ministries of culture and higher education as well as a large group of Tehran University students.

Ira, said Abrinia and three fellow Iranians were arrested on Dec 15 after a prayer gathering at a Manchester mosque during which Muslims renewed their commitment to the teachings of the late Ayatollah Khomeini (AP).

Iran failed to respond: Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said in Amman on Wednesday that Iran had failed to respond to Iraqi peace overtures.

"Iran still has a negative attitude toward peace efforts," Ramadan told reporters on arrival for economic talks in Jordan.

"Iran has not expressed a sincere desire to achieve a just and permanent peace and it has not clearly responded to (Iraq's suggestion) for the formation of specialised committees for detailed and practical discussions ... to end the state of no-war no-peace between the two countries," he said.

Iraq proposed last month that Iraqi-Iranian committees be set up under UN auspices to break a deadlock in peace talks to turn the 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war into a lasting settlement. (Reuters)

Bid to stop Shiite battles
Iranians in Beirut

BEIRUT, Dec 27, (Reuters) An Iranian delegation arrived in Lebanon today to try to end five days of fierce fighting by Shiites that has killed at least 42 people and wounded 175.

Fighting raged between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah for the fifth day in the South Lebanon area of Iqlim Al Tuffah, security sources said.

The sources said two fighters were killed and six were wounded when Amal tried to retake lost ground from Hezbollah under cover of an artillery barrage.

They said the attacks failed to push through Beshaya village in Iqlim Al Tuffah, scene of ferocious house-to-house fighting since Saturday.

In a drive to stop the bloodbath, an Iranian team including First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammed Besharati, ambassador to Damascus Mohammed Akhtari, and Mahmoud Hashemi Rafsanjani, brother of the Iranian President, came to Beirut.

They had talks with Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah at his residence in the Shiite southern suburbs of Beirut.

Ethiopian rebels capture town: Rebels in northern Ethiopia said on Wednesday they had defeated a major offensive by government forces and captured the large town of Debre Tabor in Gondar province, 320 km (200 miles) northwest of Addis Ababa.

A spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) told Reuters 3,200 government troops had been killed or wounded in heavy fighting around Debre Tabor which started last week.

"It's a very significant victory," spokesman Tewelde Gabru said from London in a telephone interview.

Tewelde said rebel forces took Debre Tabor, on the road from Gondar to Wollo province, after defeating a three-pronged offensive by government troops from the 603rd army corps. (Reuters)

Heroin seized: Security forces in West Azerbaijan province broke up three heroin smuggling rings, seizing millions of dollars of the drug and arresting 24 people, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Ira, said members of the Islamic revolution committees in the northwestern province had over the past few days seized 112 kilos (247 pounds) of heroin worth \$60 million (37.5 million).

The security officers also took a substantial number of weapons and ammunition, Ira said.

The report said those arrested confessed to plans to bring three tons of narcotics into the province, which borders Turkey and Iraq. (AP)

500 newcomers: Five hundred Soviet Jewish newcomers have arrived in Tel Aviv through Budapest airport on the Israeli airlines (El Al), Radio Israel reported on Wednesday.

Moreover, six hundred Jews from the Soviet Union had arrived in Tel Aviv last week, added the radio in a broadcast picked up here.

Rebel rockets kill 8 people in Kabul: Afghan rebels unleashed fierce rocket barrages on Kabul on Tuesday, killing eight people and wounding six, the official Kabul Radio said.

The broadcast said the rebels fired 30 US-made ground-to-ground missiles into residential areas.

The radio blamed the attack on "criminal extremists," a description Kabul uses for the Western-backed mujahideen fighting the Soviet-supported Afghan government.

Government forces killed 30 rebels in a counter-attack, it said. Five rebel bases were destroyed by air and artillery strikes near the capital. (Reuters)

Yemens declare pardon for political dissidents

SANAA, Dec 26, (Agencies) North and South Yemen ordered a general pardon yesterday to all political dissidents from both states.

A joint statement said the pardon was "in accordance with the spirit of unity and stems from the essence of the historical Aden agreement which started a new phase of national action."

The presidents of pro-Western North Yemen and Marxist-ruled South Yemen signed a draft joint constitution in Aden on Dec 1 setting out a timetable for merging the two states.

The statements said the pardon applied to all exiled Yemenis and dissidents "who were subjected to measures for their political activities and it also includes the cancellation of all demands for revenge."

The statement was broadcast on television and radio in both Yemenis and issued by their news agencies.

It did not specifically mention former South Yemeni leader Ali

Nasser Mohammad who has lived in exile in North Yemen since he was ousted in bloody factional fighting in Aden in 1986.

Ali Nasser said today that he hails the step taken by leaders of North and South Yemen to pardon all political prisoners.

Speaking to the Kuwaiti daily Al Sayassah in a telephone call, the former Yemeni head of state said that this positive step proves that people of both countries care for unity.

FAO appeals for a million tonnes of food to avert starvation in Ethiopia

NAIROBI, Dec 27, (Reuters) Drought-stricken Ethiopia will need more than a million tonnes of food aid next year to escape famine, three times the government's original estimate, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said today.

"Only an international relief operation of major proportions can avert widespread loss of life in Ethiopia once again," FAO Director General Edouard Saouma was quoted as saying in a statement issued in Nairobi.

The statement said drought cut this year's harvest in the northern province of Ererba by 80 per cent. In neighbouring Tigray, overrun by rebel troops, the harvest fell 50 per cent.

The north of Ethiopia, worst hit by drought, is also the hardest part of the country for international aid to reach because movements are restricted by the fighting there.

"Food stocks in the drought-affected areas are being rapidly depleted," the statement said.

The FAO said Ethiopia would need 700,000 tonnes of emergency relief in 1990 to deal with the latest drought, which also affects some eastern, central and southern areas.

Ethiopia also needs 400,000 tonnes of "structural and project food aid" to make up for the shortfall in food production which persists even in good harvest years, it added.

Up to one million people starved to death in northern Ethiopia during the great drought of 1984/85.

Prompt action by relief agencies and international donors stopped a second famine when severe drought struck the north again in 1987/88.

But agencies say the situation this year is more serious.

A larger number of drought victims than before live in rebel-held areas which have until now been beyond the reach of aid agencies operating from the government side of the lines.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tesfaye Dinka said last week the government was making arrangements which would allow local non-government organisations (NGOs) like the Ethiopian Red Cross to feed needy people in rebel-held Tigray.

Foreign relief officials told Reuters they thought these selected agencies would be allowed to truck food across the military lines into rebel-held areas. They said they expected the government to give the go-ahead within days.

They said foreign-based relief agencies such as Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund, which have played a major role in famine relief in Ethiopia, would not be allowed to take part directly.

But the foreign NGOs would probably be able to play a supporting role by supplying the local agencies with food, trucks and storage facilities, they added.

EVENTS



Vishal Arts get ready

"VISHAL Arts" performed their first show on March 31, 1989 at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. The programme was a great success and the audience enjoyed every minute of it. Each and every song was a hit with the viewers. The highlight of the programme was a dance by Jasmine which swept the audience to their feet.

Vishal Arts second show has once again the same talented singers Shahnawaz Karim, Sabina Gijra, Qamar Parvez, Naidu, Abu Bakar, Arjun Gehi with

addition to the popular Tony and Ambika Suryan-ayan.

The orchestra has been expanded to a 12 piece band conducted by the well-known Anil Raun.

The main attraction of the show once again is the fast dance rendered by Jasmine and her troupe of young talented girls.

The show has been sponsored by Rothmans and organised by Arjun Gehi and Abu Bakar.

Raffles will be drawn at the end of the show.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV-1

- 9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 9.15 Sabah Al Kher: news and variety
- 9.30 Cartoons
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.15 Rejal Fi Al Masaya: Arabic serial, starring Muna Abdul Ghani, Mohammed Redha, Raja Al Jadawi and Fuad Khaleel
- 11.30 The Open University: Cultural programme
- 12.00 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 12.15 Hwar Wa Nigham: Local programme, prepared by Khaled Ba Hameed
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 Sports in a Week: Sports programme, prepared and presented by Sports Programmes Control
- 2.45 Liqa Al Khamees: Variety programme
- 4.00 Maa Al Talaba: Local programme, prepared by Ministry of Education School Activity Department
- 5.00 Breen: cartoon serial
- 5.30 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.15 Cultural film
- 7.00 Egypt information message to the state of Kuwait
- 7.15 Popular feature arts
- 7.45 Kul Al Fanoon: Local programme, prepared by Hasan Awara
- 8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mathkour

- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Variety
- 10.15 Armalet Rajul Al Hay: Arabic feature film, starring Salah Qabeel, Noura, and Hamdi Hafez
- 12.15 Thursday late night variety show
- 1.30 News summary
- 1.35 The World Today via Satellite
- 1.50 Holy Quran and closedown

FRIDAY

- 9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.25 Cartoons
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.15 Children Magazine: Local children's programme
- 10.30 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdoaa: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael
- 11.00 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday prayers and speeches
- 12.30 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares, presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 The Friday Break: Variety programme, prepared and presented by Variety Programmes Control
- 3.00 Self Alla Al Shemal: Arabic feature, starring Sheroun, Ahmad Abdul Wareth and Samiya Ameen
- 4.00 Al Hadeeth Al Denec: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Metwalli Al Sharawi

- 4.45 We are your friends: Local programme
- 5.00 Breen: Cartoon serial
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Kuwait Television Programmes in a Week
- 6.30 Kuwait in a Week: Local programme
- 7.15 The Family Programme: Local programme
- 7.45 Scientific Issues: Cultural programme
- 8.40 Hadeeth Al Osboo: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Wrestling
- 10.00 Variety Cultural Late Night Show with guest writer Yahya Saqer, prepared and presented by Amal Abdullah
- 12.00 News summary
- 12.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.25 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV-2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Fantastic Max: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts and illusions... training children how to use or deal with information...
- 7.00 Wild America — Minnesota Mink: A look at mink which is hunted for its costly skin and fur
- 7.30 "Secret Code": Andrew is on a mission for Dr Jeftoot and is kidnapped...
- 8.00 News in English



KTV2, 10.00 Thursday —

- The Golden Girls.
- 8.30 Murder, She Wrote "Fire Burn...": Gossip is spread by three persons about ghosts but one of them is murdered. Jessica starts her investigation.
- 9.30 Just for the Record: An exciting and entertaining programme capturing record-breaking achievements from the tremendous to the trivial...
- 10.00 The Golden Girls: "The Flu". While the three old friends are making preparations to attend the annual party of friendship they catch "flu" and remain in bed.
- 10.30 Feature Film "Broken Lance": Starring: Spencer Tracy, Richard Widmark,

Robert Wagner, Jean Peters. An autocratic cattle baron creates rift among his sons.

12.00 News in Brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Macron 1: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Walt Disney Movie "Justin Case": Justin is found dead in his office when Jean enters to be interviewed as a secretary... His ghost appears before her to tell her a very strange secret...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts of Kuwait...
- 8.45 The Common Enemy.
- 9.30 The Weekend Programme: A weekly local programme on a variety of topics and local activities and events.
- 10.00 Roseanne: "Bridge Over Troubled Sonny": Sonny is killed in a work accident and his wife insists on keeping their marriage ring on her finger for many reasons... Roseanne has to find out some of them...
- 10.30 Supercarrier: "Vector": The Georgetown mounts a search and rescue mission for Sierra but bad weather and heavy seas hamper their efforts.
- 11.30 News in Brief
- 11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Lecture

PROFESSOR Oleg Grabar, of Harvard University, USA, will give a public lecture on "The Earliest Representations of Mosques in Islamic Art."

The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1990 at 6.00 pm at the Kuwait National Museum lecture theatre. The lecture, which is in English, is open to all.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Goodbye 1989

SUPER Top Ranks present

the most fabulous show of the year: Goodbye 1989. The programme includes glamorous dance performances from Hindi, English, Punjabi and Arabic. Popular dance "Ghaza-Neh-Kiya-Ha-Ishara from Tridev by Valencia Rose Bud Tanaka and Group and the most popular pop band Ajeen, will give performances, especially for the Arab audience. The show will be on December 28 from 4 pm onwards. All are welcome at the Doha Entertainment City's International Theatre. Entry to city is free. For more info: Khalid Fawzi on 4879455. Tenakoon on 4319864 and Valencia Rose Bud 5615291.

Musical Variety

PAKISTAN Arts Circle will hold a musical variety programme on the eve of the "New Year" on Sunday, the 31st Dec, 1989 at Sr. Vice-President's residence. Zahid Saeed Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan will preside. The programme, includes competition of singers, presentation of a leading poet of Kuwait, bingo and "Bait-Baazi" of ladies, as well as many other attractive features. Families interested are welcome but they should collect the invitation cards. Honorary member families are requested to kindly collect their invitation cards from the Secretary, Public Relations, Hamid Mahmoud: 4716258 as soon as possible.

Philippine embassy

THE Philippine embassy in Kuwait will remain closed for three (3) consecutive days, from Saturday, 30 December 1989 until Monday, 01 January 1990, on account of Philippine holidays.

IAC Children's Competition

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Fumaites on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Arts Circle.

Annual Day Celebration

MAHARASHTRA Mandal, Kuwait is celebrating its first annual day on 29th Dec '89 Friday, with variety entertainment programme from 1000 to 1500 hrs at the Indian Embassy Hall.

Members and guests are requested to contact Tel. Nos. 5725176 or 2424242 or 3921372 for entry passes.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Dhat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Fumaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, Joao de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Fumaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Kalpak's drama competition

Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries. Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradyil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat, Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481. Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

"Nirjhar"

A CULTURAL function under the auspices of "Nirjhar Sangskritik Goshthi" will be held at Bangladesh embassy premises on 29th December, (Friday).

Mohsin Ali Khan, the political Advisor and Charge d'Affaires of Bangladesh embassy will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshis have been requested to kindly procure the invitation card in order to attend the function. For details please contact the Tele. Nos. Mahe Alam - 4315962; Mannan - 4317223; Salam - 4330416.

Pongal celebrations

BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

New Year treat

ON the occasion of the New Year, the Entertainment City has decided to make entry to the Entertainment City free of charge on Thursday, Dec 28.

IAC table tennis

THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2433552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

Kuwait Cultural Centre

NEW courses at the Cultural Centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

Vishal Musical Group

VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their second Musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Fumaites, Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films, as well as classical and fast dances by young talented artists. There will be a lucky draw and tea served at the end of the show. For gate passes contact: 2412970 (Raja Stores), 4317290 (Shahani Video) or 4318290 (Rhythm Cassette Shop).

Saz Aur Aawaz

FEB 2: Saz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Gait. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Fumaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Kuwait Welsh Society

A CHRISTMAS party will be held on December 28, 1989 at 8 pm. For details ring 3721383 or 3713467.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Licence to Kill
Salmiyah
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Moontrap
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Main Asad Hoon
Fahad
Sarparani
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
The Dead Pool
Salaikhath
Puthiya Karukkal
Jeeb
Charnon Ki Saugandh
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

FRIDAY
Al Andalus
Licence to Kill
Salmiyah
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Moontrap
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Main Asad Hoon
Fahad
Sarparani
Al Jahra
North Shore
Granada
Funny Farm
Salaikhath
World Gone Wild
Jeeb
Dharm Shatru
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

Danielle Coffee Morning

THE next coffee morning for Dances will be held on Jan 7 at 9.30 am in the Meridien Hotel, first floor. For details please call Inge — Tel: 3727688 ext. 207.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club has postponed A Day of Your Life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel.

SPORTS

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30, beginners-improvers-adults. Mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00, Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/

black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6-10. Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm — All standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts — coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details — Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Boys Own Club tie-breaker tournament

BOY'S Own Club are happy to announce that entries are open for the tie-breaker football festival to be held on 29/12/89, at Al Sour Ground. Teams wishing to enter this football festival can contact Joe D'Souza on 4813622/25 ext. 147.

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.16 am
Zohr 11.49
Asr 2.39 pm
Maghreb 4.58
Isha 6.20

FRIDAY

Fajr 5.07 am
Zohr 11.50
Asr 2.40 pm
Maghreb 4.59
Isha 6.21

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ojail Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Mubarak Street
Al Rasheed Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber Street

Nagra & Hawali
Al Fardous Pharmacy
Beirut Street

Salmiya & Rumaitiyya
Al Rashed Pharmacy
Amman Street

Fahad & Ahmadi
Al Iman Pharmacy
Makkah Street

Juleeb Al Shuyoukh
Faiaka Pharmacy
Main Street

Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
The Fourth Area

New Year Masses

Holy masses on New Year's eve and New Year's day are as follows:

December 31: New Year's eve, holy masses

7.30 am English
4.00 pm Konkani
6.00 pm English

10.00 pm Holy Hour (English)
11.00 pm Pontifical High Mass
January 1st 1990: New Year's day holy masses

7.00 am English
8.00 am English
9.00 am English
10.00 am English
11.00 am English
11.30 am French mass (in big hall)

12.00 noon English
3.00 pm Sinhalese
4.00 pm Konkani
5.00 pm English
6.00 pm English

7.00 pm Malayalam (in big hall)
January 5th: Solemnity of the Epiphany. For more information contact Fr. John Christostom.



Omar Sharif at the Meridien

World's famous international actor, Omar Sharif, recently visited the Meridien Hotel, Kuwait to launch a new perfume called "Omar Sharif". Sharif was welcomed by the General Manager of the Meridien Hotel Keaton Woods, and Public Relations Manager Youssef Al Ghabra, upon arrival.

The picture shows (l-r) Tricor Arsalinyan, Omar Sharif, Keaton Woods (G.M.) and Youssef Al Ghabra (PR Manager).



Shatadal celebrate Victory Day

The Shatadal Cultural Group held a discussion session and a musical programme to mark the Victory Day of Bangladesh. Some of the artists who took part in the programme are seen in the picture.

هكذا انت الاصل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Imports expected to expand rapidly

Call for fairer distribution of income in Japan

PARIS, Dec 27, (UPI): Japan's economic performance has been superior to most other industrialised countries but the government should address discrepancies between the strength of the economy and the relatively poor quality of life, the OECD said today.

"The excellent macroeconomic performance has not so far been fully reflected in commensurate welfare improvements," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in its annual report on Japan.

"While per capita income at the current exchange rate has surpassed that in the United States, living standards are still much lower in Japan. Also, rapid

growth was accompanied by increasing inequality in wealth distribution," said the report by the Paris-based group of industrialised nations.

"Average working hours, though the longest among major OECD countries, have remained unchanged in the 1980's, despite a nearly 20 per cent rise in household real disposable incomes."

Japanese gross national product has increased fourfold since Japan joined the OECD 25 years ago. Japanese exports increased tenfold over the same period. Japan moved up from fifth place to second in the GNP ranking of OECD countries.

Japan's GNP per head is the fifth highest in the OECD when measured at current exchange

Firms spent record \$32b

TOKYO, Dec 27, (AP): Japanese firms spent a record 4.55 trillion yen (\$32 billion) on entertainment and gifts in 1988, more than the government plans to spend on defence next year, the National Tax Administration agency said today.

Total expense account spending rose by 8.7 per cent from the previous high of 4.19 trillion yen (\$29 billion) in 1987, said an agency official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said the agency estimated total expense account spending based on a survey of 57,599 of Japan's 1,851,653 companies that closed their annual accounts in January 1989.

The survey showed average expense account spending of 4.12 yen (3 cents) for every 1,000 yen (\$7) in company income, the official said.

Japanese executives often are given carte blanche to entertain at exclusive night clubs and Japanese-style times.

Inviting clients for golf and presenting gifts are other customary entertainment expenses.

rates, but valuing it on a purchasing-power-parity basis puts Japan in only 10th position, the survey says.

"It would therefore be opportune for Japanese living standards to be brought more closely into line with the nation's productivity," the OECD says.

On trade the report concludes that "internationally, Japan's place in the world economy today and its dependence on the continuation of a liberal world trading system mean that it should be one of the countries taking the lead when it comes to rolling back barriers to the international movement of goods and services."

The agency predicted economic growth in Japan will run at 4.5 per cent in 1990 and 4.3 per cent in 1991 because of buoyant growth in both domestic demand

and exports.

"Recent surveys suggest that firms' investment intentions remain strong, providing a major stimulus for domestic demand."

Imports are expected to expand rapidly in 1989 and 1990, leading to a further decline in the current external surplus as a percentage of GNP, the OECD economists' report says.

But the ratio may pick up slightly in 1991 due to gradually improving competitiveness.

Wage pressure is expected to get stronger and the underlying trend of inflation to accelerate, reflecting increasing labour market tightness.

But the phasing out of one-and-for-all price effects due to the introduction of the general consumption tax in 1989 should result in "a flat profile of inflation" as from the second half of 1989.

The survey says that given the projected strength in private domestic demand, the high degree of capacity utilisation and expected output expansion at or somewhat in excess of potential growth "the broadly neutral stance of fiscal policy with respect to aggregate demand growth appears appropriate."

"By helping to achieve the government's medium-term goal of reducing the excessive public debt-to-GNP ratio, it will contribute to improving fiscal policy flexibility and to strengthening the economy's supply side," the OECD report says.

World Bank may resume new lending to Beijing

WASHINGTON, Dec 27, (Kuna): The World Bank seems likely to soon resume lending programmes to China which was suspended after the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in June, according to US officials today.

To resume its lending, the bank needs formal approval from its 152 stockholders, including the United States, which holds 20 per cent of the shares. The New York Times quoted the bank and administration officials as saying the loans could be made as early as next month.

According to the Times, the administration officials insist that its policy against World Bank lending to China remains unchanged. But the lifting of some American sanctions against China on Dec 19 was seen as a step toward administration approval of such lending in the near future.

Criticism of any new China loans is likely in Congress, where some members are seeking tougher sanctions against Beijing because of what they consider continued repression of human rights.

But administration officials, according to the Times, plan to argue that new lending should encourage liberal forces within the Chinese leadership, pressing both for a greater opening to the outside world and more respect for human rights.

The World Bank, which is based in Washington, has provided \$8 billion to China since 1981. It suspended \$750 million of loans last year.

Since fall of 1988, Beijing has moved toward central planning and away from the market-oriented policies that over the decade had attracted \$14 billion of investment from industrial countries, of which 3.5 billion came from the United States.

Austerity budget hikes taxes

ALGIERS, Dec 27, (Reuters): The Algerian government has presented an austerity budget, raising taxes on fuel and other goods while cutting the budget deficit by over 40 per cent.

The official news agency APS, in a report on the budget debate today, said the tax increases "would deal a cruel blow to the purchasing power of a large part of the population, which has been gradually eroded since the start of the 80's."

The budget put revenue from taxation at 88 billion dinars (\$11 billion), 21 per cent up on the amount forecast for 1989.

Some of the extra revenue would come from additional taxes on building materials, various producer goods and a levy on real estate holdings worth more than a certain amount, APS said.

On the other hand, tax concessions would benefit the tourism, handicraft and computer sectors.

Al Zawawi opens GCC trade fair

MUSCAT, Dec 27, (Kuna): Omani Deputy Premier for Financial and Economic Affairs Gais Al Zawawi inaugurated here today the sixth joint GCC exhibition.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by GCC ministers of trade and industry and GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bisara.

Speaking on the occasion, Omani Minister of Trade and Industry Salem Al Ghazali said the organisation of such exhibitions will enhance economic co-operation among the GCC member states.

He noted that 345 establishments and companies are participating in the exhibition.

For his part, Abdullah Bisara said the establishment of the GCC, which groups the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, has enhanced commercial exchanges among the GCC member states.

AMF loan

ALGIERS, Dec 27, (Reuters): The Arab Monetary Fund has lent Algeria the equivalent of \$163.8 million to finance economic reforms, the official news agency APS said today.

Under an accord signed by Economy Minister Ghazi Hidouci and AMF president Ouassama Faqih, the loan will be made available in three tranches repayable in five years.

Prices will continue to soar

Heating oil moves up record amount

NEW YORK, Dec 27, (UPI): An extraordinary run of accidents at oil refineries in Louisiana, Texas and Wyoming over the long holiday weekend, combined with continued cold weather around the United States, propelled home heating oil upward yesterday by a record 11 cents — nearly as much as it gained all last week.

"You never ever had a day of prices up this sharply," said Jack O'Dea, manager of Dean Witter Reynolds' International Energy Futures Group in New York, describing the heating oil takeoff as "mind-boggling."

Heating oil contracts for January delivery finished yesterday on the New York Mercantile Exchange at \$2.48 cents a gallon, marking a new four-year high, a gain of 10.74 cents over Friday's closing price of \$2.374 cents a gallon and a gain of 15 per cent over late last week.

Merc officials said heating oil reached a high of 94.35 cents — up 12.61 cents — before profit-taking brought it down.

The Merc Statistical Department said the session set a record for a one-day upward movement, though not for price, since trading began in 1978. The price record, set Dec 3, 1979, stood at \$1.15 a gallon.

Volume was a relatively heavy 38,814 estimated contracts, well above the daily average of 21,419 but off from Friday's exceptional 43,959.

Another New York trading desk manager, speaking on condition he not be named, said continued cold weather and industry accidents were "driving this market upward in a historic way."

Oil gained a one-day record 10.74 cents a gallon to 92.49 cents a gallon, a gain of 13 per cent over Friday.

At noon local time, heating oil was still rising on the London exchange, hitting \$226 a tonne, or 72.20 cents a gallon.

"It's one of those things that happens occasionally, but it's the first time this year the market's gone limit up," Holliday said of the London gains.

Demand for heating oil in the United States came from exceptionally cold weather in the United States and from the drop in supply caused by an explosion Sunday at the second-largest US oil refinery in Baton Rouge, LA, owned by Exxon.

Holliday said European demand had also

Sheikh Ali for Thailand

KUWAIT, Dec 27, (Kuna): Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khafifa left here yesterday heading a high-level delegation, on a six-day tour, that takes him to Thailand and Indonesia.

In Thailand, Sheikh Ali will confer with King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Premier Chatichai Choonhavan. The oil minister will also meet Indonesian President Soeharto.

The two visits come at the invitation of Thai minister attached to the Kuwaiti embassy and responsible for the oil sector Korn Daparnun, who was in Kuwait last March, and Indonesian Minister of Mines and Energy Ginanjar Kartasasmita.

During the visits, the Kuwaiti delegation will exchange views with Thai and Indonesian officials on relations between Kuwait and their countries, particularly in the field of oil and its by-products. The possibility of executing Kuwait investment projects there will also be tackled.

The Kuwaiti delegation groups managing director of marketing at the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Ali Al Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah, KPC's assistant managing director for eastern world sales Abdullah Hamad Al Rumi, executive assistant managing director for planning Hani Abdul Aziz Hussein, vice-president of the International Kuwait Oil Company Nasser Al Salem and director of the oil ministers office at the KRC Saad Zabbal.

Economist John Lichtblau of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation in New York said he was unwilling to hazard a guess of how deeply accidents and exceptionally cold temperatures had reduced US heating oil refining capacity, but he described the impact as "not insignificant."

With temperatures running 30 per cent colder than average since late November, consumer costs are sharply up.

"Retail prices will continue to go up," he said, "but I don't think all this will be passed on."

Upward pressure was amplified by the absence of many market participants on the day after Christmas. Those holding January contracts held out for a higher price with the month's settlement coming up at week's end.

"We did not have a lot of people in the industry who could sell it and would sell it to take advantage of these higher numbers," the trading desk manager said.

"You have no control in the market when there are no sellers."

Said O'Dea: "When you put all these things together, when the market was already on the crazy side, it just exacerbates the whole problem."

Analysts said US traders lacked guidance from European markets such as the International Petroleum Exchange in London, closed for boxing day.

"We did not have any guiding numbers coming from the European market," said one trader, "so we were off on our own making new trails."

The belief West Germany stands to gain from the opening of the east was also reflected in a West German share market rally.

The 30-share Dax Index soared 75.1 points, or 4.4 per cent, to 1,711.4, its highest since it was introduced in July, 1988, with a base of 1,000.

In Britain, London's FTSE index of 100 leading shares ended 33.8 points higher at 2,395.8 and in Paris the CAC-40 index was 8.17 points up at 1,985.66.

By midday in New York, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had gained 18.56 points higher at 2,727.82.

Selling pressure in a thin market and the weak dollar also helped to exaggerate movements of the London bullion market today. Gold tumbled to close at \$406 an ounce after opening at 408.85 and ending last Friday at 413.25.

Loan accord

TOKYO, Dec 27, (Kuna): Japan's largest and Export-Import Bank has concluded a package of unconditional loan agreements with Algeria to assist it rehabilitate development projects.

A spokesman for the bank today said three loans totalling \$243.5 million will be extended jointly by the World Bank and non-government Japanese financial institutions.

He said a fourth loan of \$210 million would be made available to the Algerian Development Bank by private Japanese financial institutions to finance projects including creation of new jobs and maintenance of agricultural equipment.

The analysis said Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines had a greater comparative advantage, while Singapore's role as the business co-ordinating centre of Southeast Asia would increase.

Singapore is "poised to play an

increasingly important role" in the financial and business services sector, although Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines will gain in the manufacturing area, Perc said.

"Hong Kong's labour-intensive factories which produce textile, toys and sporting goods are not going to move to Singapore in the event of a panic withdrawal of manufacturing from the economy," Perc said.

The report also noted Singapore had enjoyed only limited success so far in luring Hong Kong-based fund managers largely because the republic was regarded as over-

Dollar shares jump

Gold tumbles

LONDON, Dec 27, (Reuters): The West German mark, riding a wave of positive market sentiment, closed in Europe today at its highest against the dollar since May, 1988.

Share values were also strong in West Germany, Britain, France and other major Western European centres, helped by an early rally on Wall Street on the first full day of trading worldwide after the long Christmas weekend.

The dollar closed in London at 1,690.5 marks compared with 1,704.5 on Friday. It last ended below 1.70 on May 16, 1988, when it was 1.6878.

The US currency also finished in London at 142.05 Japanese yen, one yen down on Friday.

Most European markets were shut on Monday and Tuesday for the Christmas holiday.

Dealers said market demand was fired by prospects for further strong West German economic growth as Eastern European markets opened up and investment opportunities presented themselves.

"The outlook for the West German economy is quite good. The special situation in the East should allow the mark to continue firm," said one dealer in Frankfurt.

The belief West Germany stands to gain from the opening of the east was also reflected in a West German share market rally.

The 30-share Dax Index soared 75.1 points, or 4.4 per cent, to 1,711.4, its highest since it was introduced in July, 1988, with a base of 1,000.

In Britain, London's FTSE index of 100 leading shares ended 33.8 points higher at 2,395.8 and in Paris the CAC-40 index was 8.17 points up at 1,985.66.

By midday in New York, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had gained 18.56 points higher at 2,727.82.

Selling pressure in a thin market and the weak dollar also helped to exaggerate movements of the London bullion market today. Gold tumbled to close at \$406 an ounce after opening at 408.85 and ending last Friday at 413.25.

Loan accord

TOKYO, Dec 27, (Kuna): Japan's largest and Export-Import Bank has concluded a package of unconditional loan agreements with Algeria to assist it rehabilitate development projects.

A spokesman for the bank today said three loans totalling \$243.5 million will be extended jointly by the World Bank and non-government Japanese financial institutions.

He said a fourth loan of \$210 million would be made available to the Algerian Development Bank by private Japanese financial institutions to finance projects including creation of new jobs and maintenance of agricultural equipment.

The analysis said Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines had a greater comparative advantage, while Singapore's role as the business co-ordinating centre of Southeast Asia would increase.

Singapore is "poised to play an

increasingly important role" in the financial and business services sector, although Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines will gain in the manufacturing area, Perc said.

"Hong Kong's labour-intensive factories which produce textile, toys and sporting goods are not going to move to Singapore in the event of a panic withdrawal of manufacturing from the economy," Perc said.

The report also noted Singapore had enjoyed only limited success so far in luring Hong Kong-based fund managers largely because the republic was regarded as over-

regulated and without sufficiently attractive tax breaks.

But the serious staff shortages in Hong Kong caused by the emigration of professionals and other skilled workers should force the colony's financial service companies to begin relocating some of their Treasury Department functions to Singapore, Perc said.

Singapore, faced with a critical labour shortage and a population of only 2.6 million, is hoping to lure 100,000 Hong Kong residents anxious for a new homeland following China's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Singapore is "poised to play an

UK stocks

Sharp gains

LONDON, Dec 27, (Reuters): Shares extended early sharp gains this afternoon as Wall Street rallied modestly, but the rise here was greatly inflated by thin seasonal trading.

Dealers said continued hopes of a repeat of last January's strong rally and a growing feeling Friday's U.K. November balance of payments figures may provide good news also gave support.

By 1542 GMT the FTSE 100 was 31.0 points up at 2,393.0, the highest intra-day level since the October 13 mini-crash. The turnover of 145.3 million shares was one of the lowest this year.

Dealers said institutional buying appeared confined to a few sectors but, with stock in short supply, this was enough to lift the entire market.

"The market is over-bought and over-valued given the rapidly deteriorating position for corporate earnings but a total lack of sellers and the institutions' high liquidity is helping shares defy gravity," said one market analyst.

The November UK current account deficit is seen narrowing slightly to £1.5 billion from 1.54 billion in October. Dealers said there was speculation that imports will have slowed more than expected.

Sectors in favour with the institutions included insurance and banks, brewing, food retailing and food manufacturing.

Dealers said insurance stocks were also helped by recent news the European Economic Community is to allow individuals to take out life insurance contracts in other EEC countries. Legal and General added 7p to 424, Britannic 7p to 609, Royal 18p to 568, Commercial Union 9p to 531 and Sun Alliance 5p to 338.

Brewers benefited from an upward revision of values after Whitbread's sale last week of its spirits unit to Allied-Lyons for £545 million. Bass added 8p to 1045, Allied-Lyons 7p to 494, Grand Met 12p to 624 and Whitebread 7p to 394.

Dixons, the electrical retailer currently fighting a hostile 120p per share bid from Kingfisher, added 2p to 136 after saying it made record sales of £60 million in the week before Christmas.

This gave a boost to the entire retailing sector which has been hit by worries over a slump in consumer spending. Next rose 3p to 86, Marks and Spencer 3p to 200, WH Smith 7p to 342, Sainsbury 7p to 267 and Tesco 5p to 198.

Cable and Wireless was 11p up at 570 in reaction to last week's news China International Trust and Investment Corp is negotiating to buy a stake in W's Hong Kong telecom unit.

Dealers said oil stocks benefited from continued cold weather in the United States which has boosted fuel oil prices. British Petroleum firmed 7p to 336, Enterprise 7p to 651, Shell 7p to 485 and Ultramar 7p to 372.

Wall Street rose nearly 20 points in its morning session, helping the FTSE 100 end 33.8 points up at 2,395.8. This was the highest close since September 13, when the index ended at 2,401.5. Turnover was a thin 223.3 million shares.

FTSE futures forged ahead, with the March contract up 13 ticks at 2,444, matching the 2,443.4 record closing high on the cash market reached on July 16, 1987.

IT'S NEW

THE

Lombard Option Account

AND

IT'S SPECIAL

Lombard in Jersey are pleased to announce the introduction of a special new type of account — the Lombard Option Account. If you are seeking a good return on your funds, a Lombard Option Account is just what you are looking for.

With a Lombard Option Account you get the best of both worlds; the certainty of a lump sum capital bonus of a predetermined fixed amount and the right to vary the length of the investment period.

You can invest any amount from £1000 up to £250,000 for a period of your choice from 3 to 10 years and you will receive a lump sum Capital Bonus at the end of the investment period paid without deduction of tax at source. And on the third and each successive anniversary you can elect to change the period of investment — without penalty.

And if you are retiring in the next 3 to 10 years and expect to pay a lower rate of income tax you could benefit by opening a Lombard Option Account now to defer income until after your retirement date.

To find out more about this exciting new investment opportunity from Lombard please complete and return the coupon.

Lombard Banking
(Jersey) Limited
Deposit Accounts

To: Lombard Banking (Jersey) Limited, Dept 547 PO Box 554
39 La Motte Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Please send me full details of the Lombard Option Account

(Please write in capital letters)

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss)

Address

2. Lombard Banking (Jersey) Limited is a member of the National Westminster Bank Group

The most recent audited accounts for Lombard Banking (Jersey) Limited are available on request.

Registered in Jersey No 3345. Registered Office: 39 La Motte Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Japan's rate hike not effective: economists

TOKYO, Dec 27, (AP): The Central Bank's latest move to boost interest rates, aimed at curbing inflation, has done little so far to strengthen the yen and is unlikely to seriously discourage capital spending, analysts say.

The biggest initial effect was confusion in financial markets — before the action was formally announced — over an apparent dispute between the government and the Central Bank.

Once the Bank of Japan announced on Monday that it was raising its official discount rate, its rate for loans to commercial banks, the stock market reacted positively to the removal of the past week's uncertainty. Although higher interest rates usually discourage stock investment, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average unexpectedly soared.

Meanwhile, the US dollar slipped only 1.57 yen from Monday through today, when the dollar closed at 142.10 yen. The dollar had fallen 1.67 yen in one day the last time the bank raised its discount rate, in October.

Japan has been counting on a strong yen to keep down the costs of its imported fuel and raw materials, and to help curb its trade surplus by making Japanese exports less competitive abroad.

Higher interest rates tend to push a country's currency up on foreign exchange markets by making it more attractive to investors.

"To make the dollar weaker, below 140 yen for instance, the hike wouldn't be enough unless the United States cuts its discount rate soon and narrows the gap between the two," Yoshiaki Kakimoto, an economist with Sumitomo Bank, said of Monday's half-percentage point discount rate boost to 4.25 per cent.

"The hike will hardly discourage capital investment or help stem inflationary pressure," he added.

Co-operation agreement

ROLLS-ROYCE and Snecma, Concord's engine-makers, have signed an agreement which could lead to a second-generation supersonic engine programme.

Sir Ralph Robins, Deputy Chairman of Rolls-Royce, and Louis Gallois, president of Snecma, signed a co-operation agreement to identify realistic supersonic transport programmes in preparation for co-operation in a new SST engine programme.

Under the plan the two companies will carry out a market survey with potential customers, identify feasible engine concepts, and identify key technologies and additional test facilities for joint investment. Specific technology programmes will be covered by separate agreements.

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/16	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/16	8-7/16
6 months	8-1/8	8-3/8
1 year	8-1/16	8-3/8

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.450
Sri Lankan rupee	7.400
Pakistani rupee	13.790
Bangladesh taka	9.000
US dollar	293.15
Found sterling	472.5
UAE dirham	0.7918
Deutsche mark	1.7275
Japanese yen	0.02071

Zimbabwe woos investment as unemployment soars

HARARE, Dec 27, (Reuters): After finishing secondary school in 1985, Patrick Chikunze left his rural village to find a job in Zimbabwe's private sector as an apprentice motor mechanic.

Armed with five General Certificate of Education ordinary level passes, he expected to be snapped up by employers desperate for young school leavers to train in technical fields.

But four years on, he has failed to find an apprenticeship and has been unable to find even odd jobs such as digging trenches at road repair and construction sites.

Chikunze is one of hundreds of thousands of school leavers who daily patrol Zimbabwe's industrial sites, waiting at factory gates hoping to be engaged in anything that does not require special skill.

"I wake up early in the morning around 3 o'clock every day and start my long trek to industrial areas to parade at factory entrances in the hope I may be offered a job one day, any job — I won't

Egypt's economy is sinking deeper into crisis

CAIRO, Dec 27, (Reuters): President Hosni Mubarak, in a grim warning underlining Egypt's deepening economic crisis, said it must not make the same mistake as Eastern European countries by depending too heavily on state control.

He also said Egypt's problems could be exacerbated if foreign aid was diverted from Cairo to the Eastern bloc.

"We have the example of states which did everything and they have

reached the terrible line of danger. They are faltering now in Eastern Europe because the state used to do everything," Mubarak told reporters today.

Despite moves in the last two decades to boost private enterprise, Egypt has one of the biggest public sectors outside the socialist bloc and the kind of centralised planning more typical of Moscow than of a mixed economy.

"With the present international changes, the time will come when aid

could be gradually reduced," Mubarak said. "That is why we should depend on ourselves in development and the private sector should invest its money in Egypt."

His remarks were in the latest in a series of appeals for greater efficiency amid signs that Egypt's economy is sinking deeper and deeper into crisis.

Cairo stopped most repayments on its foreign debt 18 months ago, making

only those essential payments needed to keep credit lines open for food and other imports.

Economic analysts say the government has barely enough money to meet even these payments or maintain supplies of its most vital import, wheat, which is needed to keep the people supplied with subsidised bread.

Egypt desperately needs an agreement with the International Monetary Fund which would enable it to

reschedule its foreign debt, relieve creditor pressure and attract fresh investment. Total foreign debt is estimated at \$50 billion.

But no prospect of an IMF accord is in sight and no date has been fixed for a further round of formal negotiations.

Meanwhile, Egypt is watching helplessly as its potential donor countries pledge fresh aid to Eastern Europe.

"There is a sudden realisation they are not going to get all they want from

the European Economic Community,

one diplomat said. "Mubarak understands there is a problem. There is a feeling that they have got to do something. But there is not actually any sign that they are taking any concrete steps," he added.

Mubarak has appealed for an expansion, reduced dependency on the public sector and a strengthening of the private sector. But the government has yet to come up with clear plans.

Industrial growth to lead Gulf economies in 1990s

Regional development strategy needed

BAHRAIN, Dec 27, (Reuters): Industrial growth will lead Gulf economies in the 1990s, but a regional development strategy is needed to eliminate duplication and promote complementary projects, a senior Gulf economist said today.

Gulf International Bank economist Henry Azzam said in a monthly report that, despite the advantages of cheap energy and low-priced feedstock from petrochemical and gas plants, there were many barriers to rapid industrial growth in the region.

"The challenge facing industrial development in the Gulf during the 1990s is ability to produce and sell competitively, both in the domestic markets as well as abroad," Azzam said.

"The GCC (Gulf Co-operation Council) countries need therefore to come up with a coherent industrial strategy for

the region as a whole, that eliminates duplication and promotes complementary industrial projects."

The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The six states have a total of 5,405 factories and industrial plants.

The manufacturing sector's contribution to their GDP rose from around 5.5 per cent in 1980 to 9.0 per cent in 1987 and is targeted to reach 15 per cent in the mid-1990s, Azzam said.

Kuwait and Bahrain top the present ratios with 13.7 per cent and 12.3 per cent respectively.

Azzam said downstream petroleum and petrochemical industries offered the best opportunities for growth, along with projects based on mineral resources and import substitution for consumer industries,

particularly of processed food.

Synthetic or assembling industries, which have large markets in the Arab world, engineering industries and projects serving defence or oil sectors would also be viable.

But he said obstacles to industry included the high cost of some imported products, the small local market, limited commercial bank lending and limited protection by the Gulf tariff system.

Commercial bank credit to Gulf industry declined to \$2.6 billion in 1988 from 2.9 billion in 1985 while the percentage share of commercial lending to GCC manufacturing sectors fell to 4.6 per cent from 5.9 per cent.

Lack of management expertise and technical skills among the national population, limited technological research and incompressible industrial legal

codes were also barriers to growth, Azzam said.

On the positive side, a non-uniformed labour force, wide-ranging industrial incentives and subsidies, ample capital resources and political stability helped Gulf industry.

With a common external tariff and free trade agreement set to be implemented within the six member states by 1992, a GCC common market could soon become a reality, Azzam said.

Estimates show the GCC will have a population of around 27 million and a GDP of around 250 billion by the year 2000.

"This will undoubtedly constitute the largest collective market outside the OECD and the Eastern European bloc that could provide the depth required for promoting industries in the region," Azzam said.

Thailand seeks more US investment

Japan puzzled by Thai premier's comments

TOKYO, Dec 27, (UPI): The Japanese government, planning a visit by its foreign minister to Thailand next week, today expressed puzzlement at comments by Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan suggesting he prefers US investment in the country over that from Japan.

In an interview with United Press International in Bangkok, Chatichai said he wanted more US investment in Thailand to balance out the current foreign investment leadership in the country led overwhelmingly by Japan.

"You (Americans) don't compete enough with the Japanese," Chatichai said in the interview, adding, "I don't want my children to speak Japanese. I want them to speak English."

In Tokyo, Seiichi Kondo, director of the International Press Division of the Foreign Ministry, said "we are puzzled by his statement. We wonder what he really meant."

Another senior Foreign Ministry official, who asked for anonymity, put it more bluntly.

"I was slightly annoyed by that comment," the official said. "As a politician, he may have his own style (in expressing his views) and maybe we should take that comment in that line."

In 1988, Japan accounted for 53 per cent of all investments in Thailand, followed by Taiwan with 12.5 per cent and the United States at 5.8 per cent.

"It is a very interdependent relationship," the senior ministry official said. "It's (the comment) is absurd when you take into account that we are always talking to our people in Thailand about contributing to their society."

"We should be mutually prosperous," he said.

The Foreign Ministry said Japanese investment in Thailand, which is mostly export-based, "will contribute substantially to the growth of the Thai gross national product in the near future, creating approximately 150,000 to 200,000 new jobs for the Thai people."

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will visit Thailand from Jan 2-4 and will pay a courtesy call on Chatichai and be received by King Bhumibol Nakayama.

Japanese officials said the trip is aimed at exchanging views on various proposals for solving the conflict in Cambodia and assessing the impact on Southeast Asia of the pro-democracy movement in Eastern Europe and the easing of tensions between the United States and Soviet Union.

Argentina on the brink of hyperinflation

Price controls lifted

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 27, (Reuters): Six months after beating back hyperinflation, Argentines fear it is returning to haunt them.

On Tuesday the austral currency dived 26.2 per cent against the dollar from a 1,355 opening to a 1,710 close. Time-deposit interest rates remained high at a monthly 105 per cent.

"These wild fluctuations don't reflect reality. We warned it would take a while for the markets to settle," Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez told reporters on Tuesday, but businessmen and analysts were unimpressed.

"We've jumped overboard. We're heading straight towards hyperinflation," said a leading economist for one of Argentina's largest food industry organisations.

"I heard it from every businessman I spoke to today. They had no doubts," said the economist, who asked not to be named.

"This morning when we saw what the markets were doing we just stepped back," the president for Latin America of a European liquor and beverage company said.

"If we do sell next week our prices will have to go up around 100 per cent," he added.

The austral's plunge on Tuesday was a rude awakening for Argentines after a long Christmas weekend. The previous week the austral held firm against the dollar, buoyed by a President Carlos Menem cabinet reshuffle and new economic

measures.

Market turmoil had forced the December 11 resignation of Nestor Rapanelli as economy minister. During his five-month tenure he had brought inflation down to a monthly 5.6 per cent in October after two months of hyperinflation that in July reached a 196 per cent, a record monthly rate.

But by November markets lost confidence in Rapanelli's ability to carry out the government's reform programme and the austral began its tumble against the dollar.

Menem responded by giving Gonzalez, a close aide, the economy portfolio.

In a bold move last week, Gonzalez freed the exchange markets, salary negotiations, lifted price controls and appealed to businessmen and bankers to behave responsibly.

"Last week's calm made no sense. It was a result of goodwill agreement between the government and the big exporting firms," economist Walter Graziano told Reuters.

"The market wasn't expecting anything like this today, it took us by surprise," said a dealer at a large grain exporter. "It's very volatile and seems to have lost confidence."

"The situation now is very similar, only worse, to what it was under the previous government," said Graziano referring to the bout of hyperinflation in June and July.

Japan's current account plunges

TOKYO, Dec 27, (Reuters): Japan's current account and trade surplus plunged in November for the ninth straight month as imports surged, and economists said the trend would continue early next year.

The surplus in the current account, which measures trade in both goods and services, plunged 37 per cent in November from a year earlier to \$4.26 billion, the government said today.

The surplus in merchandise trade tumbled to \$4.49 billion, down 41 per cent.

"In the coming months, the reduction of the surpluses will certainly continue," said economist Soichi Enkyo at the Bank of Tokyo. He said the strength of the economy and a higher yen would boost imports further while curbing exports.

Exports slipped three per cent from a year earlier to \$21.61 billion in November, while imports climbed 17 per cent to 17.11 billion.

A Finance Ministry official also predicted the surpluses would keep shrinking in the months ahead. Japan is under intense pressure from its trading partners, particularly the United States, to reduce the surpluses.

Economists said slowing foreign demand for Japanese cars was a factor behind the decline in exports.

He predicted the yen would rise in coming months due to a narrowing of the difference between interest rates in the United States and Japan, which raised its key discount rate by a half-point on Monday to 4.25 per cent.



Tokyo share brokers watch floor dealers' movements at the Tokyo Stock Exchange as shares rose 257.89 points to a record close of 38,681.31 on a year-end burst of buying Dec 26. "Between the discount rate decision on Dec 25 and the near-resolution of the political uncertainty in Romania and Panama, most negative factors have disappeared, said a securities broker. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bulls stay on TSE

TOKYO, Dec 27, (UPI): Bulls continued to dominate trading on the Tokyo Stock Exchange today, lifting the key Nikkei price indicator to yet another high. Trading was moderate.

The Nikkei Average of 225 selected issues, which set a landmark Tuesday, soared 257.69 yen to close at a new high of 38,681.31.

Topix or the TSE index of all listed major shares also gained 1.02 points to 2,867.97.

An estimated 900 million shares were traded, up from Tuesday's 652.89 million shares.

Brokers said trading was marked by widespread buying throughout most of the session although institutional investors took profits and retreated to the sidelines at one time.

"The firmer yen, the historic detente in Europe and a possible easing of credit in the United States are all encouraging factors," said a trader at Nikko Securities Co.

High-priced blue chips and distribution-related issues, including Sony and some department stores, paced the advance. Steels, machinery issues, precision instruments, mining, air transport and trading houses also gained.

Shipbuilders, nonferrous metals, banks and construction weakened.

The Tokyo stock exchange's key index closed at a record high for the second consecutive day today, while the US dollar declined against the Japanese

yen for the fifth trading day in a row.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues, which gained 257.69 points Tuesday, added another 120.32 points, or 0.31 per cent, closing at 38,681.31.

Surging prices for futures contracts also led to strong expectations of share price gains, they added.

Volume traded on the exchange's first section was estimated at 900 million shares, up from 650 million shares Tuesday.

The dollar closed at 142.10 yen, down 0.27 yen from Tuesday's finish of 142.37 yen. After opening at 142.13 yen, it ranged between 141.85 yen and 142.20 yen.

The dollar now has fallen 2.13 yen in five days. Currency dealers described trading as thin with the approaching year-end holiday season.

The market is expecting lower US interest rates, dealers said, while the yen is gaining some support from the Bank of Japan's decision Monday to increase its official discount rate to 4.25 per cent from 3.75 per cent to stem inflationary pressure. Higher interest rates usually make a country's currency more attractive to investors.

The US official discount rate, the rate charged for Central Bank loans to commercial banks, currently stands at 7 per cent.

Nikkei stock average: 38681.63 (+120.32)

Volume: 900 mil shs

Yen exchange rate: 142.10

Name of stock	Ch	Ch
Advantest Corp	5100	+100
Ajinomoto	2820	-10
Alps Electric	2020	-20
Amada	2190	0
Asahi Chem Ind	1240	+10
Asahi Glass	2330	-30
C. Itoh Co.	1190	+10
Canon Inc	1840	+20
Casio Comp	1530	+10
Dai Nippon Printing	2390	0
Daiichi Sekiyaku	2810	+10
Dainippon Ph	2630	-10
Daishinku Corp	1760	+20
Elsai	2110	-40
Fanuc Ltd.	8450	+330
Fuji Photo	4380	+20
Fujitsu Ltd	1540	-10
Hitachi Credit	2000	-20
Hitachi Koki	2100	0
Hitachi Ltd.	1520	-10
Hitachi Ltd.	1730	+10
Honda Motor	1860	+10
Ito Yokado Co	4720	+30
Kajima Corp	2220	-10

Tokyo shares

Kawasaki H I	1040	-10	Onward K Co.	2440	0
Kobe Cast Iron	1450	+50	Orix Corp	6990	0
Kokusai Elec	3620	0	Pioneer Elec Co.	6190	+100
Komatsu Ltd.	1360	+10	Renown Look Inc	2550	+140
Kyocera Corp	5430	-30	Sanyo Elec Co.	964	+6
Matsui	3630	+40	Secom Co. Ltd.	6690	+290
Matsushita Ind	5100	-30	Shin-Etsu Chem	1370	0
Mitsubishi H I	2370	+20	Shindengen Elec	1330	+20
Mitsubishi M C	1000	0	Sony Corp	8780	+180
Mitsubishi Corp	1930	-20	Sumitomo Elec Ind.	1680	0
Mitsubishi Estate	2510	-40	Sumitomo Metal Ind.	869	+26
Mitsubishi H I	1160	0	Takeda Chemical	2300	0
Mitsui R E	2960	-30	TDK Corp	5680	+110
Mitsui Sumitomo Bank	2040	+70	Tokio Marine & Fire	2180	-10
Mori Seiki Co.	4400	+100	Tokyo Elec Power	6070	-50
NEC Corp	1900	+10	Tokyo Electron Ltd	1220	+30
Nippon Chem	1530	+10	Toray Ind Inc.	1020	-10
Nippon Steel Corp	1710	0	Toshiba Corp	1260	0
Nippon Steel Corp	750	0	Toyota Motor	2590	-10
Nippon Yusen	2480	+20	Yaskawa Elec	1310	+30
Nisanku Corp	1540	+40			
Nomura Sec	1250	+30			
Okuma Mach	1830	-30			

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Midwest), Bahrain

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS AND FORWARDING AGENTS

The lines named below advise that with effect from Mulbera Voyage 4823 (Due Kuwait 17/1/90) rates of freight for cargoes to New Zealand and Australia have been adjusted.

Please contact your local lines agent for details.

Blue Star Line
Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK)
P&O Containers Ltd.

هناك ان الخطوط

Indian Cinema

Hot news and shocking events

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

RECENT weeks brought some hot news, shocking events and get-togethers which were record-breaking in their own way, like a surprise end to a tame year gone by.

The biggest sensation was the sudden return of Parveen Babi from nowhere to somewhere. At the height of glamour and fame, the lady had left Bollywood seven years ago. Then there were mysteries spun, around her whereabouts and activities in the globe. Suddenly she landed in Bombay, met a few selected friends and scribes and launched an attack on Amitabh Bachchan as the man who ruined her. With a bloated face bearing some injury scars and a delirious way of talking, here is what she blurted out, in her own words:

"I have not come back to join films again. I hate it. I have enough money for the rest of my life. Memories of Bombay's film world did keep harassing me there, abroad. I wanted to make contacts, but how could I? My strings were being pulled like a puppet, there was danger to my life itself."

"Don't mention that man Amitabh's name. He ruined me and my career. He used to visit me here before I left India. Then there were several attempts made on my life, when I started running from one country to another. It is because of the threats that I had run away from Bombay one night."

"In London, an attempt was made on my life. Luckily, I was travelling and staying with Swami U.G. Krishnamurti at the time. That saved me. Soon I went off to United States, but the attempts continued... in New York and other cities... from 1985 to 1987 or so."

He was after me... he is very powerful. He has used all his clout to get me. There was a gang doing this in an organised hired way. They tried to throw radiation on me, and put heat-escalating devices in my floor, walls and roof. There was some poison in my food and water. The enamel began coming out from my teeth and there were pains. I would be often dragged inside a store and beaten up, with an ambulance waiting outside. They even threatened me through a TV channel. He was afraid I may expose the way he had behaved in Seattle. But now I have no fears, I want him to be hanged."

Most people who were present took all this as the rantings of an unbalanced woman. We thought that when the effects of drugs get over, Parveen will come back to her senses and perhaps also to films, like Vinod Khanna.

A record of sorts was created at the release function of the "Limca Book of Record 1990" at Taj Mahal Hotel. Lata Mangeshkar came to present the book to the record holders, herself being one. People like ex-Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw were among the guests. And one copy autographed by painter M.F. Hussain was auctioned and bought for one lakh rupees, the proceeds being earmarked for Mother Teresa's fund.

Still bigger records were set in the hotel hall by Bislari Beverages; the book's publishers and Taj's experts chefs. A tremendously big "barfi" (sweet) weighing several kg's, an impossibly huge circled "jalebi" (another Indian delicacy) and a long cake were delicately brought in, cut and presented but could not be all eaten. They may take their place in next year's edition as the biggest of the "species".

Among the poor humans, there were the tallest and shortest couples and the man who has grown the longest nails (he received the book from Lata taking care that the nails flowed down and not hurt the little lady).

Lata kept her usual record of giving the shortest speech, as company Chairman Ramesh Chaudhan welcomed her. She is already a Guinness record holder. It was that international compilation which inspired this book about purely Indian records, which makes racy exciting reading. Several pages are devoted to records in arts and entertainment, with cinema getting prime focus.

People will be surprised to read about several "firsts" in Indian films, like a full feature made in 36 hours, first foreign actress working in an Indian film in 1920, actor Prem Nazir who did 600 films as a hero, maximum films with a shaven head, the worst theatre fire, etc. But these are surpassed by records in a dozen other fields. Those interested in the book priced at Rs 95/- may get it from D.D.A. Complex, Ring Road, Naraina, New Delhi 110028.

The year 1989 marked the platinum jubilee of Indian Cinema. So the government and postal Department at last relented to honour this much-taxed and least recognised industry as well as its pioneers like D.G. Phalke. A special stamp was issued depicting a scene from the first completely Indian feature "Raja Harishchandra" with the insignia being 75 years of Indian Cinema. There was also a "First Day Cover" showing a camera, film strip etc. But there was too much emphasis on Raj Kapoor, as two symbolic scenes from his films took up a large part of the cover (see photos).

The industry as usual did not know how to honour itself or keep its word gracefully. To mark the platinum jubilee a rich souvenir was ordered by Film Federation of India led by G.P. Sanyal and others. It was edited by B.K. Karanjikar. The printing was assigned to a Bombay-based firm. For the occasion, to be held in Madras, with Indian President R. Venkatraman as the Chief Guest, a few copies were hastily called for and prepared. But once the "tamasha" was over, the federation refused to take delivery of the bulk order, making excuses for its mean penny-pinching. The poor printer has got into trouble after investing in the costly book. A 75-year-old industry, which spends lakhs over a single night's cocktail party, cannot spend on a book covering its own record of various genres of films made.



Meenakshi Sheshadri

Star interview

Meenakshi Sheshadri

- Q. But when an actress opens up and lets her hair down, she can do some really worthwhile acting.
- A. Our films offer hardly any scope for that. In routine roles all one can do is to study the dialogue and emotions to be put over. Let an earthy role come to me first.
- Q. Directors are scared away by your aloofness.
- A. Well, they must come up with a character that excites me and brings out the best. They must not go merely by outward appearances.
- Q. Junior actresses like Sangeeta, Neelam, Madhuri, Sonam have raced ahead of you. Don't you feel bad?
- A. There is no race. Everyone gets his own share of work. Fate also counts. I never keep a tab on what other actresses are doing or getting. Some may even get success as sex symbols, some as charming dolls. Each to herself.
- Q. Do you mind sharing a film with me?
- A. Only if my own identity is kept up in the script. No point in working in a chorus or group.
- Q. And what about heroes?
- A. How can you ask a person who has done so many films with Amitabh? It's something which other actresses are still craving for. Next to that, I prefer easy-going heroes like Rishi who do their work well without any hanky-panky.
- Q. So you will never adopt the industry's way?
- A. Not if they harm my interests as an actress and woman.
- Q. Not even sex-appeal? They say you wear erotic dresses and then give a wide-eyed childish look.
- A. I don't like a brazen sex-show for its own sake. That way a heroine loses her innocence and looks like a siren or vamp.

Once a quiet Thai retreat

Chiang Mai threatened

CHIANG MAI, Thailand, (Reuters): Until the railway from Bangkok was built in the 1920s, the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai could be reached only by an arduous elephant ride through the jungled mountains.

Ten years ago, Chiang Mai was still a quiet retreat known for its mountain views, Burmese-style temples and the faded manners of its pale-skinned inhabitants.

Today, the skyline is dominated by high-rise condominiums and hotels, signs of the boomtown fever sweeping the once peaceful hideaway.

Traffic jams the main roads of the city of 1.3 million during rush hour, and gaudy beer bars have started to open on street corners.

The distinctive way of life of the colourful hill tribes outside Chiang Mai is being exposed to hordes of Westerners who arrive on package tours.

Environmentalists have warned that unless strict regulations are imposed on development, the "rose of the north" could become even more polluted and chaotic than smog-choked Bangkok.

"If nothing is done now Chiang Mai could be worse than Bangkok in 40 years. One reason is geography. We are in a valley so once pollution reaches a certain level it cannot be dispersed," said Sirichai Narunrit-Rakagarn, an architect and lecturer at Chiang Mai University.

Sirichai is also a prominent figure in "For Chiang Mai," a conservationist movement that campaigned successfully against a cable-car project on the city's landmark Doi Suthep mountain in 1985.

He built himself a peaceful home at the foot of the mountain six years ago to escape the stress and noise of Bangkok, only to find that his front garden now looks onto the facade of a new condominium block.

The Thai government is trying to promote Chiang Mai as a regional centre of industrial development to relieve pressure on Bangkok.

Tourism has increased greatly in the past few years. The number of foreign visitors rose by 17 per cent from 490,000 in 1987 to 570,000 last year and the total is expected to rise 13 per cent this year. Thai tourists totalled 1.6 million in 1988, up from 1.4 million the previous year.

The construction boom took off three years ago when purchasers from Bangkok started buying land to build resorts, country clubs and apartment blocks.

Sirichai says there are at present 32 condominiums under construction and about 20 new hotels.

"Many Thais are buying these condominiums for investment purposes, hoping to sell them at a profit in a few years' time, maybe even to foreigners who want to retire here or Taiwanese and Japanese living in Bangkok," said Shalardchai Ramitanondh, a forestry expert and member of for Chiang Mai.

"Chiang Mai fulfils the dream of middle-class Thais who long to go to Switzerland for a cool climate," Shalardchai says. "They buy condominiums and come here for the chance to wear coats and sweaters."

Woman forging her place in man's trade

CAIRO, (Reuters): The Pharaohs of ancient Egypt are the inspiration for silversmith Azza Fahmy whose work blends old and new adorns the regal and the rich of Arab and Western society.

Fahmy is an anomaly in the world of Egyptian handicrafts. Through her painstaking and intricate work she has profited and made an art form out of an industry dominated by men making tourist trinkets.

Fahmy's work is produced in a cramped Cairo workshop where she is trying to revive Egyptian craftsmanship.

Conditions in her workshop, located in a poor district of Cairo, are still far below Western standards. Twenty people are crammed into two rooms — using blow torches to keep the teapots warm.

Fahmy draws inspiration both from relics in the Egyptian museum, where she studies Pharaonic and Islamic motifs, and Europe, where she keeps up with the latest fashions.

"When you see it, it is like old pieces but it is modern. It is something new coming out of tradition," she said at her Cairo gallery where an exhibition of her latest jewellery recently opened.

Her work includes heavy necklaces with filigree silver set alongside colourful stained-glass beads, brooches etched with Arabic calligraphy, a ring inscribed with a Tunisian poem, crescent peasant earrings and chains decorated with palm trees.

"It is different. It is authentic. It is making something modern out of Islamic art," said Fahmy, who believes jewellery-making should be considered an art rather than a craft.

But some critics say Fahmy's high-price work is getting more commercial with her success. Necklaces can cost up to \$550 extremely expensive by Egyptian standards.

Her target customers are the rich and famous and she plans to expand her workforce next year to boost exports, which now account for more than half of her business.

The Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris exhibited Fahmy's jewellery in July and she hopes to sell her work in major stores in New York and London.

Fahmy, 45, learned her trade nearly 20 years ago in Cairo's Khan El-Khalili bazaar, where inexpensive souvenirs serve as a reminder of the decline in Egyptian craftsmanship.

A graduate of the faculty of fine arts in Cairo in 1965, she worked initially for the government's information service illustrating children's books.

Bored by her work, Fahmy took on a second job in ceramics and decided to become a silversmith after reading a book on medieval European jewellery.

She started at a workshop in Khan El-Khalili where her mother took jewellery for repair. "It was quite an experience. They took me because I was a woman," Fahmy said.



Egyptian silversmith Azza Fahmy, poses with some of her creations at her shop in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Irish nomads live on society's margin

DUBLIN, (Reuters): Less than two per cent of Ireland's itinerant tinkers live beyond the age of 65. Ireland could have up to 25,000 Travellers, as the wandering families are known, according to some estimates.

They eke out a precarious living from their ramshackle caravans. Often they are reviled, mistrusted and forced to move on.

"We should not be able to sleep easy in our beds this Christmas knowing that Traveller children will be spending Christmas in rat-infested fields in temporary halting sites," Dublin Bishop Desmond Williams told a recent seminar on their health.

He was speaking after two Traveller children were killed in a caravan fire at their dishevelled and rundown Dublin site. "This place is not fit for a dog," a neighbour of the dead girls' parents said.

The mortality rate among the Travellers, Ireland's homegrown equivalent to the Romany gypsies who roam Europe, is three times that of the settled population.

A Health Board survey showed that only 1.7 per cent survive to the age of 65. More than 50 per cent of the Travellers are under 15.

Niall Crowley, a spokesman for a leading Travellers support group, put it bluntly: "Prejudice against Travellers is prevalent at all levels of Irish society."

He was speaking to the Irish Times which last week published a two-page report on the problems of Travellers, believed by some to be descended from itinerant tradespeople who travelled established routes in rural Ireland. According to the support group, Travellers were well-known as a group by the 16th century and had a language of their own.

Two Travellers, asked to comment on the rejection they felt about growing up permanently on the margins of society, told the paper eloquently of their pain.

Julia said: "Different? I know I live different but I don't think different. But people make me feel different when they look at me. Or people starting at me in a shop."

"I have often gone out to a dance dressed up fine, maybe with new clothes. I would be like everyone else, clean and dressed properly. And then you would be turned away from the door. It's degrading, a terribly degrading thing."

Michael Collins, now a 23-year-old actor who plays a Traveller in a leading television soap opera, said "you go into a pub all tense and nervous saying 'is he going to serve me?'"

"When I have seen pictures like 'Mississippi Burning' (about the US civil rights movement) or pictures about South Africa, I really knew what they were saying. I could identify with them."

A study of Travellers by the state-funded Economic Social and Research Institute concluded "the circumstances of Irish travelling people are intolerable. No humane or decent society, once made aware of the such circumstances, could permit them to persist."

The problem is that much of the responsibility for Travellers' welfare lies with individual local councils. Some are actively supportive, some how to local pressure groups urging the Travellers to move on.

Dublin, where a quarter of all Travellers live, houses only one sixth of the families.

That prompted Dublin Archbishop Desmond Connell to speak out in defence of those in his pastoral care.

Review of successful films of 1989

Batman is the biggest hit

By Shaun Seekins

IT has become traditional to review the successful films of the year at this time, so I shall continue the custom. The biggest hit of 1989 was Batman, if you haven't yet seen it, a good copy is now available. Jack Nicholson must be laughing all the way to the bank with a reputed \$60 million as his part of the take. Unfortunately the runner-up was banned in Kuwait, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, but the other top grossers are all available. Rainman, Lethal Weapon 2, Honey I Shrunk The Kids, Twins, Parenthood, Dead Poet's Society, The Naked Gun and Turner & Hooch.

Lower down the list are a clutch of films that have all grossed around the \$50 million. Working Girl, Uncle Buck, Field of Dreams, Scrooged, Beaches, The Abyss, Star Trek 5, Major League and the Land Before Time.

Sea of Love should be with us next week and this week's releases include the following films.

Young Einstein has rapidly become a cult film in the States, not as financially successful as Crocodile Dundee, but for a low budget Australian attempt at a Monty Python follow-up, the producers must be very happy.

The story idea is certainly offbeat, setting the young Albert Einstein, who has a natural bent for physics — and rock and roll — on a Tasmanian apple farm in 1905.

Einstein's struggle against bureaucracy, his naive and puppy love for Marie Curie come together in a mix which is surprisingly good. The invention of bubbles in drinks is linked to the splitting of the atom and E = mc², also his invention of "rock and roll."



Odile Le Clezio as Marie Curie

Odile Le Clezio as Marie Curie is probably the best thing in the film, apart from the crazed ideas of Serious, whose Einstein is more gangly and fresh than cerebral. But his direction does suggest grey matter at work as throw-away gags and subtleties litter the screen. The humour is very much up front, with enough activity and pace to translate into any language.

Paperhouse is a brainy, lucid thriller. A kind of Nightmare on Elm Street without the gore and violence. Charlotte Burke is adorable and fascinating as the 11-year-old Anna, an English schoolgirl suffering a de facto broken home manifested by the absence of her always-away-on-

business father (Ben Cross). While being punished by a teacher, she experiences the first in what will be a long series of dangerous fainting spells, blackouts that will each time transport her into the ominous, haunting reality of a house that she has drawn in her sketchbook.

She soon discovers that she can alter the reality of her surreal dream world by augmenting her drawing. By adding a face in one of the windows, she creates a dream boyfriend, a companion who seems to be the alter ego of an unseen dying boy in her waking world. As Anna grows sicker and more prone to her alternate reality blackouts, she struggles to save the young man through her

drawings. Meanwhile her father has somehow emerged in her dream world as a shadowy, axe-wielding maniac determined to destroy both youngsters. The performances are all excellent and director Bernard Rose makes an astonishing debut with potentially difficult material.

Back to the Beach, A Quiet Victory and Homer and Eddie starring James Belushi and Whoopi Goldberg are also released this week. American Football continues with L.A. Rams vs New Orleans Saints.

The above films are courtesy of the Video Club Sahitya, Tel. 5724372, Video Nand Sahitya and VFI Fintas Towers/Farwaniya.

Happy birthday



Sarmad Ahmed turned 7 on December 15



Annabel Bond turns 1 on January 2



Collin Skaria turned 8 on December 13



Sonia Koshy turned 3 on December 14



Joby Koshy turned 8 on December 19



Shauna Fernandes turns 4 today, December 28



Sean Fernandes today, December 28



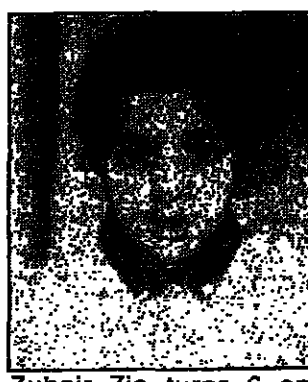
Ambily Jacob turns 11 on December 31



Asaf Sikkander turns 7 today, December 28



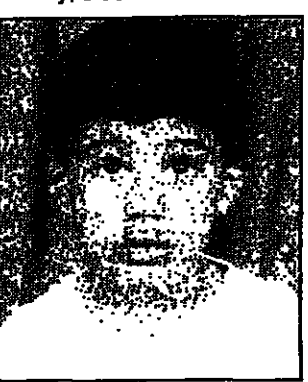
Noorul Absaar turned 8 on December 27



Zubair Zia turns 6 on December 29



Harkishore Chanda turns 10 on December 29



Navin Lewis turns 6 on December 30



Josslen on December 23

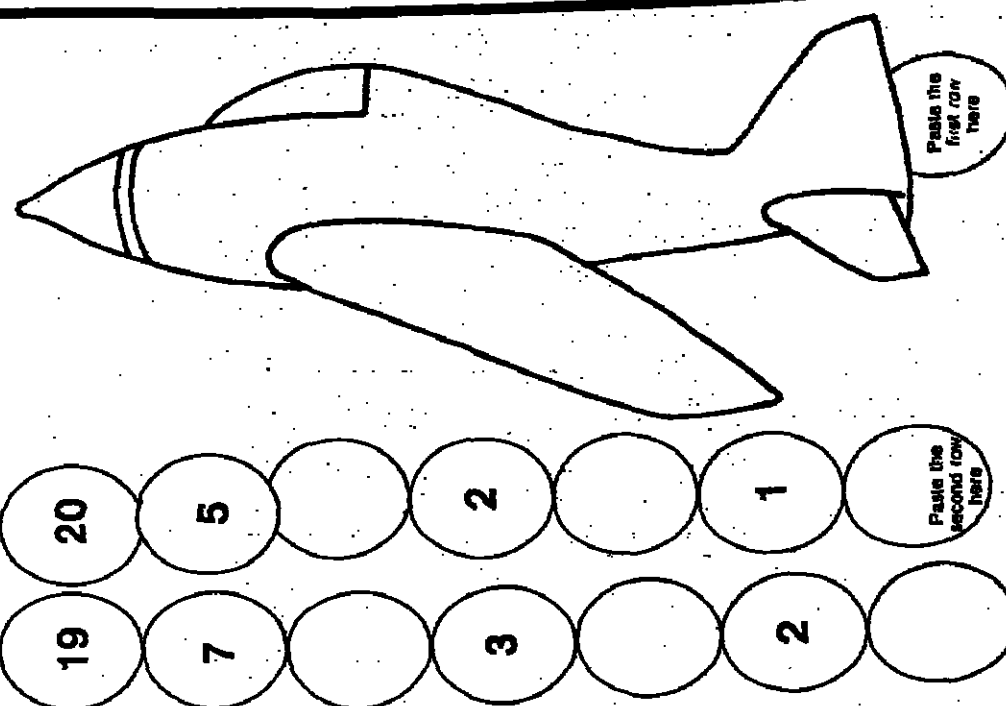


R.S. Kumar turns 14 on January 1



Ravi D'Souza turned six on December 27

Airplane Smoke



Begin with the "first row" of smoke puffs. Subtract each number from the number in the smoke puff before it. Then do the "second row" of smoke puffs. Paste the "first row" to the "second row" behind the airplane.

Let's think awhile

An open letter to KTV

AFTER a long week at school and having finished my homework, I sit down to watch a movie for a short break and what do I find? It's a murder film. Just as a simple book of 90 pages can influence one's life, a film of 90 minutes can do the same. It's high time murder, crime and terror movies are banned specially in a peace loving country like Kuwait.

1980 - 89 has been marked for the rise in crime rate in Kuwait. I don't think these psychopaths do much of reading. So how do they get the ideas of such rude, unfair and unhumanly deeds? Well, it's the TV that influences and encourages them.

Family movies or comedies are not scarce, so why such violent stuff? The

public needs something different. Cut down the shows by an hour each day. Show some education films. Transmit the late-night movies on Fridays & Sundays or every three days. It won't do much harm. The public can take to reading and other hobbies but it's about time films displayed in this country undergo change in style. The films should have meaning and they should encourage peace and love. So next time you TV show decision makers, get a new film, "think twice before you telecast it," for the sake of the people and the society.

Amina Reza,
13 1/2 years,
Farwaniya.



Just for laughs!

"Can I help you, caller?" said the telephone operator.
"Yes, get me Interpol. Quick!"
"You'll have to dial the Overseas operator, caller."
"Oh, very well." The caller dialed again.
"Overseas operator, Can I help you?"
"Yes, I want Interpol. Quick. It's important!"
"Do you have the number, caller?"
"No, I don't. But please hurry!"
"You'll have to speak to Directory Enquiries in Paris, caller. I'll connect you."

"Thank you. Hurry, please!" There was a longish pause and then a French voice said, "Can I help you, caller?"

"Yes, give me the number of Interpol. And hurry, please, I'm getting desperate!"

"One moment, monsieur... the number is Paris 28945."

"Thanks." And the number is dialed frantically.

"Allo?"
"Is that Interpol?"
"Oui, monsieur."

"Thank heavens for that! Listen - I want to send some flowers to my mother..."

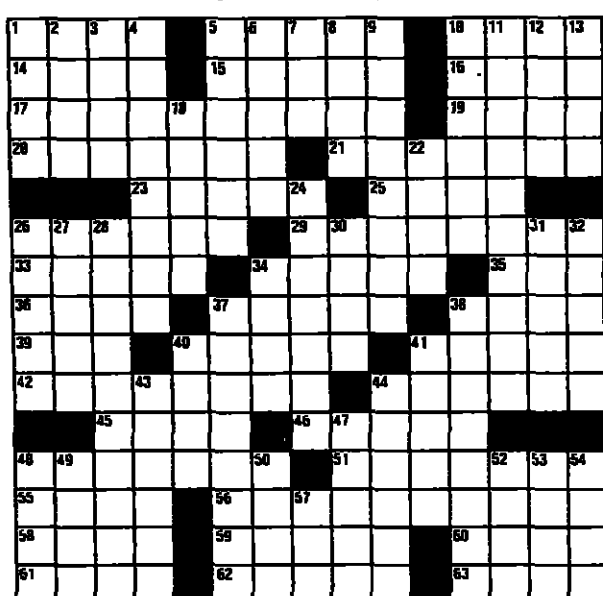
Why does the giraffe have a long neck?
Cos he can't stand the smell of his feet.

What do mermaids eat for breakfast?
Merma-lade on toast.

What does cluck-cluck bang?
A chicken in a minefield.

What goes ha-ha ha along?
A man laughing his head off.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 River in Lombardy
 - 5 Secret society
 - 10 Fountain treat
 - 14 Crabbed
 - 15 "...by any other name..."
 - 16 Year in historian Tacitus' life
 - 17 Dieter's concern
 - 19 Rise up, like a horse
 - 20 Free
 - 21 With enthusiasm
 - 23 Cut, as prices
 - 25 Year or frog
 - 26 Ham
 - 29 Of astounding size
 - 33 Adores
 - 34 Duplicate of a sort
 - 35 Shavian forte
 - 36 Got very cross
 - 37 — of the ball
 - 38 River into the Adriatic
 - 39 Seaman
 - 40 Olympic's Comaneci
 - 41 — Alegre, Brazil
 - 42 Surrounds
 - 44 Tenant in feudal days
 - 45 — monde (high society)
 - 46 Part of Hispaniola
 - 48 Palmer club
 - 51 Something made up
 - 55 Gear on a breme
 - 56 Filled to excess
 - 58 "Picnic" playwright
- DOWN**
- 1 Relative of a lute
 - 2 Hawk's opposite
 - 3 "— in the Sun"
 - 4 Brought to a halt
 - 5 Coca's partner
 - 6 Sign of the Zodiac
 - 7 Marshy area
 - 8 Court name
 - 9 To say
 - 10 Sound of terror
 - 11 Defeats
 - 12 Use the phone
 - 13 Ethereal
 - 18 Prince of —
 - 22 Richard from Philadelphia
 - 24 Internal
 - 26 Cream of the crop
 - 27 Erin of TV
 - 28 Put too high a price on
 - 30 Vincent Lopez theme
 - 31 Mountain range in Utah
 - 32 Low bench
 - 34 Transfer
 - 37 Parts of fortifications
 - 38 Chemical preparation
 - 40 Entre —
 - 41 Spot for a barbecue
 - 43 Lads
 - 44 Orchestral instruments
 - 47 Sharp and harsh
 - 48 Seathe
 - 49 Wife of a rajah
 - 50 Bacchanalian cry
 - 52 Hebrew month
 - 53 Patrilineal clan in old Rome
 - 54 Favorable margin
 - 57 Before

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

AMAH SHY HIKE
LOUIS TEES ENID
MARSH URAL ATILL
STATIONARY FRONT
NUT EAT
CIADET PERU OER
ALLO GOAL NORMA
RAILROAD STATION
TRAILA FREE TORT
SOS BASE EBONY
EBB ONE
STATIONERY STORE
LAVA DELI EAGER
ATOP EASE TIRIS
WAINE PAL LEFT

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
READ 'EM AND CHEER

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A J
♥ J 10 7 2
♦ K 8 6 3
♣ A 5 4

WEST
♠ 10 8 7 6 2
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 7
♣ J 10 7 2

EAST
♠ K 9 4 3
♥ 5
♦ A J 10 9 2
♣ Q 6 3

SOUTH
♠ Q 5
♥ A K Q 8 6
♦ Q 5 4
♣ K 9 8

The bidding:

South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

Bridge books will tell you that you need 26-27 points, including distribution, to make game in a major suit. Here, the North-South assets in high cards alone total 29 with a nine-card fit, yet game was anything but laydown.

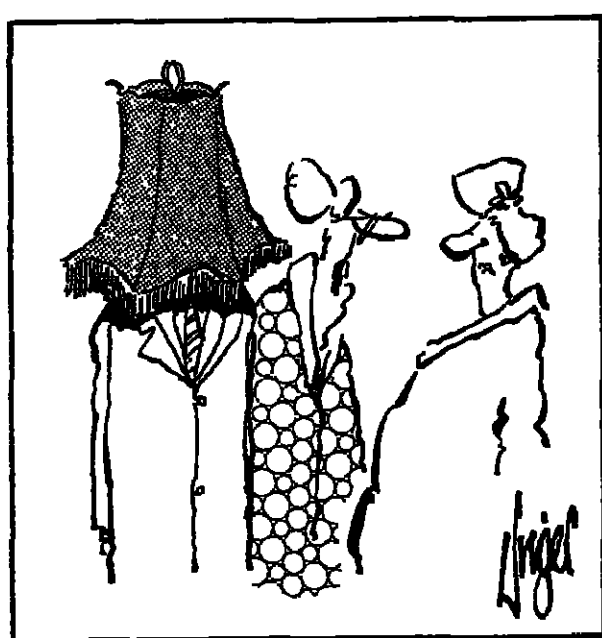
These days, an excellent five-card major suit is no reason to forgo making a descriptive opening bid of

one no trump. North checked on a possible heart fit, and leaped to game when he located it.

South was Sylvia Hazen of New York. West's diamond lead was ducked in dummy and East's nine was taken by the queen. (Note that, if East rises with the ace and gives partner a ruff, declarer can claim the contract—dummy's diamond king will provide a parking spot for one of her losers.) Declarer drew three rounds of trumps, led a club to the ace and returned a club from dummy. East carefully inserted the queen to avoid being employed. Declarer won the king and exited with a club to West's ten.

When West shifted to a spade, declarer was at the crossroads—she had to decide between an endplay and a finesse. South guessed the situation perfectly by going up with the ace of spades and returning the suit to East's king. The defense was deadlier than a doornail.

If East returned a black suit, declarer would discard a diamond from hand while ruffing on the board. And a diamond would be up to the table's king. Either way, Mrs. Hazen had limited her losers to one spade, one club and one diamond.



"His dermatologist told him to stay in the shade."

!!!!

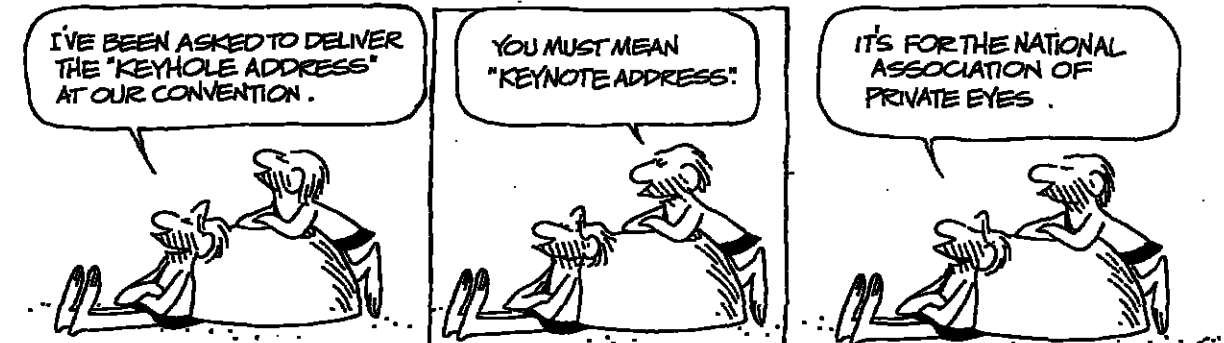
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brian Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to overcome an unusual difficulty. Avoid allowing yourself to be taken in so be a little more wary. Things are not as simple as they might seem. Be sensible.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

There will be some stimulating factors but you must not allow others to take the initiative from you. You should make sure you do not dissipate your energies. And get all the rest you need. Be persistent.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will not get the hang of something you have been trying hard to learn. You should avoid spending too much time on trivialities. Do not believe all you hear but do not be too doubting either. Be reliable.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be able to show your love for your partner. Make sure you meet your debts on time. Something you had expected will take place rather differently than you had anticipated. Be prompt.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

There will be a good opportunity, but you are liable not to it until it is too late. It will take longer to learn a new skill than you had hoped, but you should persevere. Do not take the credit for something you know you have not done. Be sociable.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Whilst learning something new you will be slower than usual so do not allow yourself to be distracted. You will be rather disappointed with something you had been looking forward to. Take good care of your health. Be magnanimous.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

If you act as though you had all the time in the world you will be too late. Something that has eluded you will now become much more feasible. Do not expect to have all things your own way. Be less devious.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should not allow a difference of opinion with your partner become a cause for an argument. Make sure you do not neglect an infection however small. Have a little laugh at yourself. Be lucid.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You are liable to do something silly, so take greater care. Your lucky numbers are 44 and 32. You should avoid too many late nights and over-tiring yourself. Do not break a promise. Be responsive.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will be in high spirits and must watch out against acting on impulse. Do not allow your emotions to run away with you nor pent them up. Look at things from the positive side. Be factual.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Listen more attentively to what other people are saying. And do not hesitate to ask if you have not heard properly. Try to be a little more amenable to change. Be tolerant.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will be able to deal with a problem that has rather vexed you of late. You should not do things in a certain way merely because you have always done them that way. Instead seek to make changes for the better. Be reliable.

JUNIOR TIMES

Young poet

Time

I know you, since I was one year old.
You talked to me and always told
That time is something
In my hands I cannot hold.
You told me time is nobody's slave
But something precious I should learn to save.
While trying to save it, I'll die
But then you needn't waste time and cry
Or sit weeping beside my grave
For time is something we all must save.

Students Plight

There is no one to hear students plight
In summer vacations they get homework tight
But still students are very bright
They pick up things very fast.

In doing work they are never last
They don't know what's happening around them
They study in detail from root to stem
They are loaded with homework everyday
But still they don't forget to pray
They expect little time to play
As they had being studying for the whole day.

By: Brajesh Kumar.



Three wishes

If I had three wishes
I know what I'd wish
I would wish for,
A fancy little dish.

The second little wish,
That I'd wish for,
Money would be my wish
And I'd have piles galore

The third little wish,
I know what I'd wish
for,
To live to a ripe old age,
And still be able to write
on this page.

Shereen Mohiuddin,
(4 years).

Dear Junior Readers,

All over the world New Year's Day is gaily celebrated. People welcome it as the beginning of another year when all mistakes are wiped out and every one can start afresh. It is the day you aim to fulfill your New Year Resolutions.

You should now be putting the finishing touches on your Resolutions' list.

Implement anything you feel is out-dated and make sure that the resolutions are not too hard to follow. This will only cause disappointment.

Think of all the things you did and have since regretted; this kind of behaviour should be mentioned under the "Do Not's" section of your list.

Manol

Colour timing



SKATE BOARD

Amazing facts

About inventions and discoveries

THE world's biggest barrel? This structure floats in the North Sea, in the Brent oil field, and is used to store oil before it is transferred to the shore by ship. It weighs 66,000 tonnes.

When bathtubs were first installed in the United States in the early part of the 19th century, newspapers attacked the idea as being "undemocratic". In 1843, the state of Virginia taxed the owners of bathtubs \$30 per year for the privilege!

A ship's "log", the instrument which measures the vessel's speed and the distance it has travelled, was originally a log-like piece of wood, attached to a cord with knots tied in it at intervals, and thrown into the sea. The number of knots paid out over a fixed period of time enabled the crew to work out the ship's speed — hence the term "knot", meaning one nautical mile per hour.

When Henry Ford started his automobile factory in 1903, he had only 12 employees. Soichiro Honda, founder of the giant Japanese motorcycle firm, also began with only a dozen workers, and a batch of second-hand engines which he fitted to lightweight frames.

The world's longest car is the 16m (53ft) long "Ultra Limo", built in California. It has an oven, a sink, a refrigerator, four telephones — and a 3.6m (12ft) swimming pool!

The world's first submarine was built as long ago as 1624, by a Dutchman called Cornelius Drebbel. It was operated by 12 men rowing through sealed portholes.

...And the world's first vacuum cleaner was invented and put on sale in 1902 by Henry Booth, a Londoner whose usual profession was designing bridges.

Leonardo da Vinci was not only a painter. He designed a variety of objects, including machine guns, helicopters, parachutes and paddle-wheel boats. Few of these machines were ever tried. Leonardo's imagination ran far ahead of the technical possibilities of his time.

The pillar-box, as used by the British postoffice, was invented by a novelist, Anthony Trollope, who was also a postal official.

The ballot-box, now used for voting throughout the world, was invented in Victoria, Australia, in 1856.

The eccentric and reclusive millionaire Howard Hughes designed and had built this giant seaplane, intending to use it as a troop carrier. It had a wingspan of nearly 100m (328 ft) and eight engines. It was called the "Spruce Goose", and flew once, when Hughes himself was the pilot, for a distance of about 1.6 km (1 m), and has remained in storage ever since.

Postal services existed as early as the year 500 BC, in ancient Persia, where runners carried messages for the king and the government's officials. The Greek historian Herodotus wrote: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds". These words can be seen today carved above the entrance to the General Post Office in New York City.

The world's first photograph took over eight hours to expose. It was taken by a Frenchman, Joseph Nicéphore Niepce, and showed the courtyard of a country house, so nobody actually had to stand still for that long.

First and last

James Gibb invented the game of Table Tennis in 1926; its first name was "Gosamer."

The first Poet Laureate of England was a Frenchman called Henri d'Avranches.

Everyone is aware that the famous painter Picasso's first name was Pablo, but not everyone knows that his complete name was

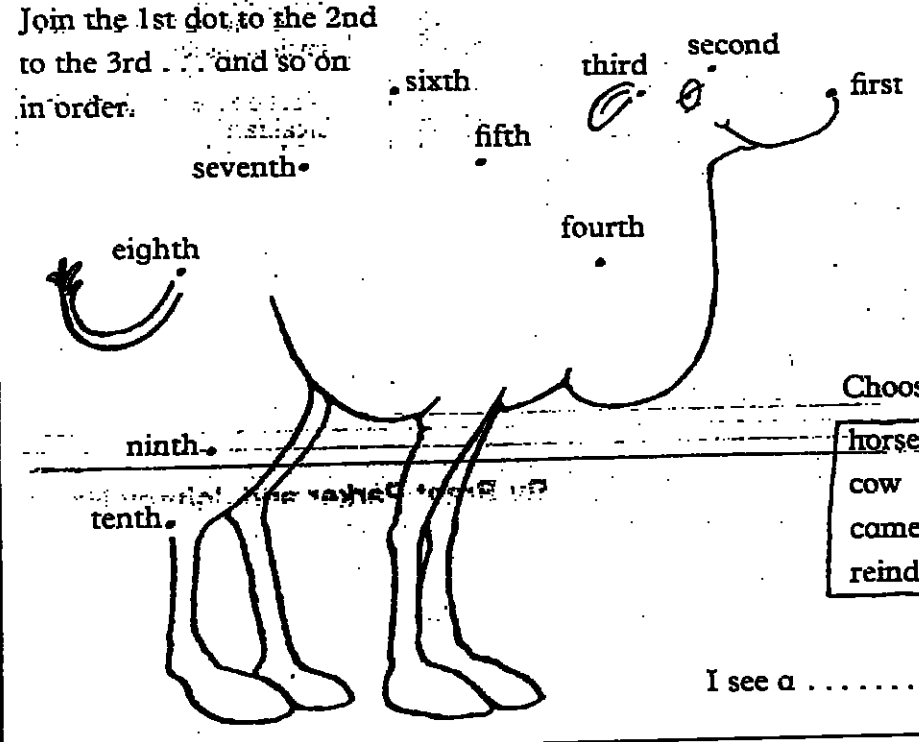
Pablo Diego Jose Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno Maria de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santissima Trinidad Ruiz Picasso.

The Venetian composer, Antonio Vivaldi, was the first to write concertos for a number of orchestral instruments including the flute, the clarinet and the bassoon.

For the first two years of Chinese and Japanese babies' lives they have a blue mark on their bottoms.

Dot-to-dot

Join the 1st dot to the 2nd to the 3rd ... and so on in order.



Choose from:

- horse
- cow
- camel
- reindeer

I see a

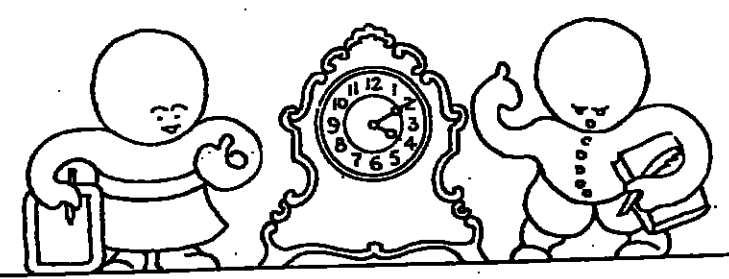
Word search

SELECTED SINGERS

- ANKA (Paul)
- BENNETT (Tony)
- BOONE (Pat)
- CHARLES (Ray)
- COMO (Perry)
- CROSBY (Bing)
- DAMONE (Vic)
- FISHER (Eddie)
- GAYE (Marvin)
- GIBB (Andy)
- GRANT (Gogi)
- KALLEN (Kitty)
- LAINE (Frankie)
- LANZA (Mario)
- PAGE (Patti)
- PRESLEY (Elvis)
- REEVES (Jim)
- SINATRA (Frank)
- STAFFORD (Jo)
- STARR (Key)
- VALLI (Frankie)
- VINTON (Bobby)

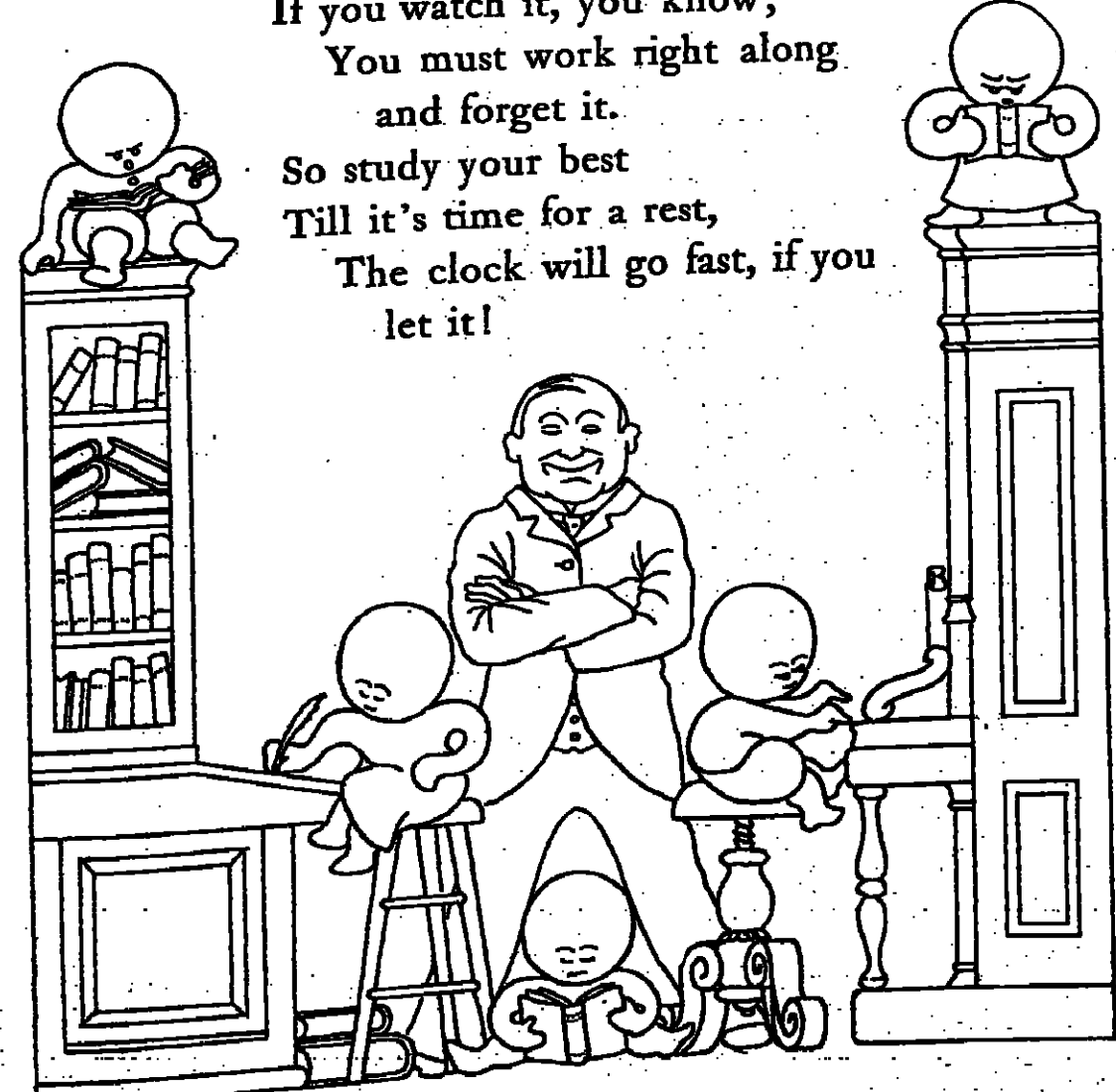
A D V O R A V A L L I C M
S T A F F O R D A M O N E
B B I G E T L E E Y A G N
F K E G A P O N E L L A K
B O O N E E Q L S V R P T
O B I J N T S K R E E Y T
A S T I U E D Z H V R S O
G E A R R A T S E I T X C
L L R P T A I T W N H O R
Q R I F V F T F A T M I O
S A N I B T C R J O G K S
W H I T I N G A K N A R B
G C H B A Z N A L Y N N Y

Goops times



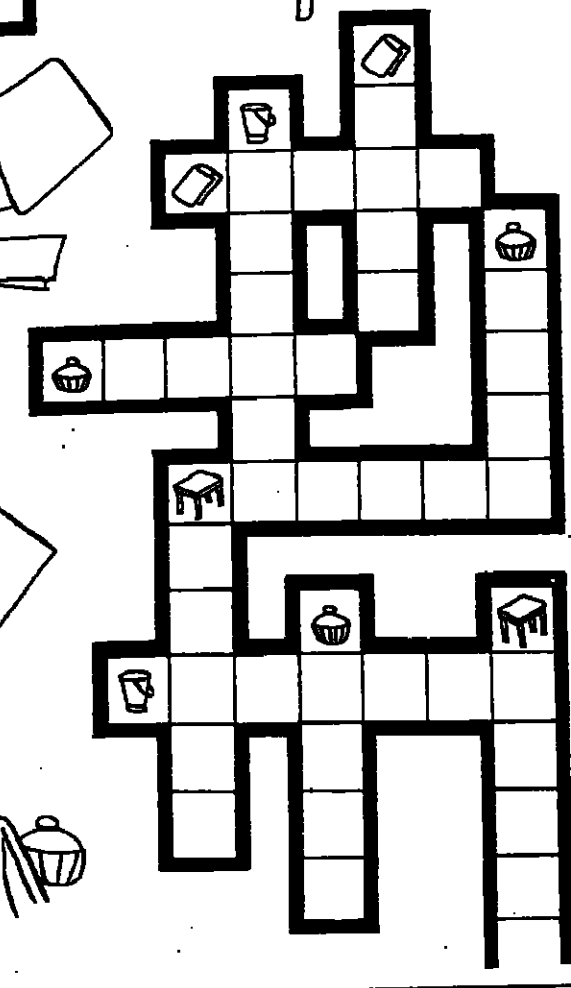
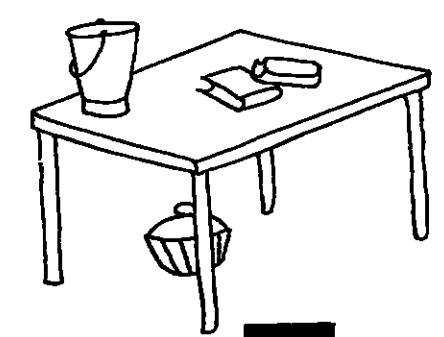
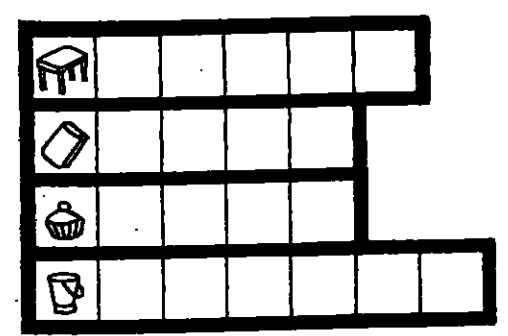
PATIENCE

THE clock will go slow
If you watch it, you know;
You must work right along
and forget it.
So study your best
Till it's time for a rest,
The clock will go fast, if you
let it!



Criss-cross fun

Write the names of the four objects in the blank boxes below. Then complete the crossword by writing each object's name in the blank squares beside each picture.



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

MARKET PLACE

ARAB TIMES CLASSIFIEDS
P.O. BOX: 2270
13023 SAFAT KUWAIT.

مکملہ اول

SPORTS

Nadia, Panait vanish

HALLANDALE, Florida, Dec 27, (AP) The trail got cold just two weeks and a few miles from here. But if Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci fell off the end of the earth tomorrow, it wouldn't be soon enough or too far away for some people.

Maria Panait for one. Her husband, Constantin, ran off with the recently arrived Olympic star, leaving behind four young children, two vans, no money and who knows how many headaches.

"I thought at least he would call for Christmas," she said yesterday, "but no."

The tall palms on the narrow street sway gently as she struggles to push a vacuum cleaner across the front seat of an aging Buick Sedan parked in the middle of the front lawn. Two of her three daughters cross the grass pushing new toys.

She is angry. Constantin, a self-employed roofer, left for Romania Nov 2 to visit his sick mother.

The next time his wife saw him, he was standing next to Nadia at a news conference in New York. Maria actually believed her husband was Comaneci's manager and as soon as she turned off the TV set, she began preparing a guest room in their modest home for the woman she thought would be their real guest.

"He called me once and that was it. If he has called friends, friends of his, they wouldn't contact me. And so I have no idea where they are. And," she added, "I wouldn't even know where to begin looking."

Sightings of the couple since they checked out of a Pompano Beach hotel and bought a flashy black Chevy convertible sports car for \$20,000 cash would make the late rock star Elvis Presley green with envy. In her short stay in the United States, she already has become a master of the disinformation campaign.

"They were lovers, they were not, they were misunderstood. They were Mr and Mrs Michael Sweeney, or so they told the clerk in Pompano Beach."

They were in Disney World in nearby Orlando. Or maybe they left the state for New York. Or Cleveland. Or...

"I heard West Palm Beach from one member of my congregation," said Father Train Pedrescu, pastor of the Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church in neighbouring Miramar, a gathering place for many of the estimated 5,000 Romanians who have settled in South Florida.

"Another told me they are staying at hotels around here, moving every two or three days, away from reporters."

"But honestly," he continued, "with what is happening now in our country, most of them would say, 'who cares?' Oh, when we first heard on TV she was coming, the Romanian people were very, very excited. Fifteen of us went to the airport to welcome her, but we could not get near her."

"Then, after this shameful thing—the woman has four children and here, Nadia can meet lots of rich men—we made prayers in our church that they would change," he continued. "That God would change their minds and they would change their ways."

"But now, we are ashamed for her," he said, "and we must pray for bigger things."

A television set behind Father Pedrescu brings the day's news from Romania into the rectory, at the same time casting a luminous glow on his white hair. He fingers a pair of eyeglasses and tries to explain the distinctly Romanian concept of "pocainta," which translates loosely to the English "penitence."

"A sinner will be received every time in church, so long as they are sorry for what they did. But she said, 'there is not sexual relations between us.' Is not possible," he said, shaking his head.

Because the Panait and their children were in his church a number of times, Father Pedrescu clung to the slim hope that he might be able to speak with Constantin, or Nadia, or both in person. He harbours no illusions any longer.

"If my English were better," he said, "I would write an article and say, 'Nadia, wake up. You are losing much love and much money. You are going the wrong way.'"

Mike Jacki, executive director of the US Gymnastics Federation, is less emotional, but equally puzzled. In the days following her harrowing escape across the Romanian border into Hungary last month, the federation received more than a dozen offers for movies, books and personal appearances from corporations and individuals.

"And I'm almost willing to bet that this day, she doesn't know a thing about them," he said.

English and Dutch fans worry World Cup city

Locals could take law into own hands

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Dec 27, (Reuters) The people of Sardinia have always been distrustful of the sea for it carried the invaders who occupied the island over the centuries.

So it will be next June when the ferries that ply the Mediterranean between mainland Italy and the Sardinian capital of Cagliari dock with the notorious English and Dutch soccer fans for the World Cup finals.

Officially Cagliari is delighted with the draw that will bring England and the Netherlands here. It is confident that massive security will contain potential violence from the hooligans who have blackened their countries' names.

But members of the public are less happy and some say locals could be tempted to take the law into their own hands if police are unable to head off trouble.

"The fans are welcome as long as they behave well," said Antonello Livretti, a 26-year-old salesman and local soccer fan.

"The people here are the sort that mind their own business but they also have a saying 'don't go looking for me because if you do you'll find me'," he added.

One taxi driver, noting that Sardinians were peaceful until given cause to feel offended, was more blunt.

"They'll get a good reception," he said. "But if they misbehave they'll get slung in the sea."

Sardinia, accessible only by plane or

ferry, was chosen as the first round venue for England during the 1990 World Cup finals because organisers say its isolation provides the best available means to contain hooliganism.

England, as Group F seeds, will play all three first round matches in Cagliari against the Netherlands, Ireland and Egypt, who will travel from their base in Sicilian capital Palermo.

The England-Netherlands tie on June 16 is potentially the most explosive of the finals given the rivalries between hooligans from both countries.

"There is no point denying people are a bit afraid but the fear has been increased by all the talk about hooligans in the media," Cagliari mayor Paolo de Magistris said.

He said he had asked the Italian government to plead with Britain and the Netherlands to ensure known troublemakers were stopped from reaching Sardinia.

"Since it's sadly true that these people are infamous that probably means they're also known so I think it must be easy to filter them out," De Magistris said.

He said he was also proposing a ban on the sale of alcohol throughout Cagliari during England's stay.

"It could be an additional security measure. I don't think these people will be arriving with barrels of beer. The most they could bring would be a couple of bottles," he said.

Details of the security operation are still

being worked out but Dutch, Egyptian and Irish fans arriving from Palermo are likely to be met by police and escorted throughout their stay, according to World Cup organising committee sources.

English fans staying at beachside resorts in Sardinia may also be escorted in and out of Cagliari on match days to prevent them wandering around the city, the sources said.

"I hope nothing will happen and I don't think it will," Andrea Arrica, chairman of Cagliari's World Cup organising committee, said.

"I don't think things should be dramatised to the extent that everyone talks about hooligans instead of the World Cup. That gets on my nerves," Arrica said.

"Of course I'm worried about security but you can't spend all your time worrying," he added.

At the Sant'elia bar, the nearest to Cagliari's World Cup stadium, the owner said he was not worried at all about the reputation of the English and Dutch fans.

"For me everyone is the same. Money has no colour and no nationality," said Lello de Luca.

"All we ask the English and the Dutch is that they show us the respect we show them."

And he added: "Sardinia is an island. You can get on it but ask yourself how you get off if you misbehave."



English soccer

Liverpool's Ray Houghton (centre) grapples for the ball with Sheffield Wednesday's goalkeeper Kevin Pressman (right) and Nigel Pearson during an English First Division soccer match on Tuesday evening. Liverpool won the game 2-1. (Reuters wirephoto)

S.Korea seeks to host World Cup

SEOUL, South Korea, Dec 27, (AP) South Korea has decided to apply to host the world's premier soccer event, the World Cup, in 2002, sports officials said today.

Officials at the Korea Football Association said the decision was made at an executive council meeting yesterday.

"The decision was formal and unanimous. Required actions will soon be taken with full support from the government," said Kim Wan-Shik, a deputy international manager of the association.

Kim said South Korea is expected to compete with Japan, China and Saudi Arabia to host the 2002 World Cup in Asia. The host country will be chosen by Fifa, the world's ruling soccer body, in 1996.

So far, the World Cup has been rotated between Europe, and North and Latin America, but Fifa recently decided to move the quadrennial event to Asia for the first time in 2002. The 1994 competition will be held in the United States and the 1998 Cup will be held in Europe.

Kim said South Korea, as host of the 1988 Olympics, would be able to stage the world cup without much difficulty. He said South Korea already has one 100,000-seat stadium and 13 30,000-seat stadiums throughout the country.

"With some modifications, the facilities can be upgraded to meet the requirements set by the Fifa," he said.

Soccer is one of the most popular spectator sports in South Korea and the country is a reigning Asian soccer champion.

South Korea, as an Asian representative, competed in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico and will again represent Asia in next year's World Cup in Italy.

Four Play hold Peepel to draw

WITH the majority of players now enjoying a three week Christmas break from Mousched Wednesday Darts League fixtures, this week saw 2 matches postponed from earlier in the season take place.

Steve Walters, unfortunately breaking a leg during a local football match, caused the delay of Weasara Peepel/Four Play game, which in turn resulted in Peter Rogan missing his final darts match in Kuwait, as he returned to England before the rearranged date. Without the guidance of their veteranised older statesman, and the unavailability of new "super-emb" Richard Head, the Peepel were held to a 3-3 draw as the usual Rogan confidence was sadly lacking in the rest of the team.

All the singles games finished 2-0, with wins for Nicky Harvey, Wayne Mooko, Brian Mitchelson and Alan Walker, as four players who have only lost one game between them took the score to 2-2. Weasara Peepel's confidence in the first PMM leg before Walker's Mooko narrow victory was a point for the winners in the second.

It remains to be seen whether the Peepel's challenge can be maintained without the virtuoso skills of Rogan throughout the remainder of the season. As Two Ply had no team, a 4-0 walkover for Barbed Comments has lifted them into 2nd place ahead of Bulls Hitters, and are now only behind Zero Down on game difference.

The other match played saw the return of Ron McGrath to the Kuwait Darts League fold, as Nobblers' replacement for recently departed Steve Edwards. Opponents No Hoppers so very nearly earned their first point of the season as they opened up a 2-0 lead only to see McGrath and Don Sefton lead the Nobblers fight back to swing the score to 3-2 in their favour. Nevertheless, sterling work from captain Derek McGowan pushed the pessimistic foursome into a 200 score MMD lead.

The long awaited point now in sight. But it was not to be, as McGrath and Nigel Mooko proceeded to score on balls, and, by the time McGowan hit the final 25, the scores were tied. After some deliberation all agreed that the result was a drawn leg which left Nobblers the winners by 3 1/2 to 2 1/2. A solid 3-1 win for Nobblers also sees them move into contention at the top of their league as they are now 5th—only 2 points separating the first 6 teams.

In both ladies and men's leagues there are currently clear leaders for the Most Number of High Scores Trophy. Filles Evelina Breznik has excelled with 7 scores so far, despite her team not repeating last year's runaway success, as she leads Lady Tossers' Dawn O'Dowd who has 4. Soviet Slingers captain Ian Thomas has a 10 score advantage over Nick Harvey who has 24, but with one game in hand, as they lead the rest of the men's league pack.

Wednesday Men's League

	P	F	L	GF	GA	Pts
Has Beans	11	10	0	1	51	20
Soveto Slingers	11	9	2	0	49	17
Mugs Away	11	9	0	2	47	19
Chuckles	10	7	3	0	39	21
Middle Eastenders	11	8	1	2	44	22
Bulls Hitters	11	1	10	1	41	19
Weasara Peepel	10	5	4	1	41	19
Absolutely	11	3	3	5	28	38
Nobblers	10	3	3	4	27	32
Shower of Tossers	10	3	2	5	26	34
Pacifists	11	2	4	5	26	40
Equalisers	9	3	1	5	24	30
Zero-Up	10	3	3	5	23	37
Blackouts	11	3	1	7	25	41
Four Play	8	2	2	4	24	24
Dinar Soarers	8	1	4	3	18	30
Fintas Flyers	8	2	1	5	20	26
Jabrya Grabbers	9	0	2	7	15	39
Fintas Flyers	10	0	1	9	15	45
No Hoppers	8	0	0	8	9	38

Wednesday Ladies League

	P	F	L	GF	GA	Pts
Zero-Down	10	7	2	1	29	11
Barbed Comments	10	8	0	2	27	11
Bulls Hitters	11	7	2	2	28	16
Lady Tossers	10	6	3	1	27	12
Nibblers	10	6	2	2	24	16
Pacifists	11	5	4	2	26	18
Equalisers	9	4	4	1	23	12
Chuckles	10	3	5	2	23	17
Middle Eastenders	11	4	3	4	22	21
Avengers	11	4	2	5	21	22
Mugs Away	11	4	2	5	20	24
Fintas Flyers	8	4	1	3	17	15
Absolutely	11	4	1	6	19	25
Blackouts	11	2	4	5	18	26
Filles	8	2	3	5	15	17
Human Beans	11	1	5	3	17	27
Fintas Flyers	10	2	7	7	12	28
Jabrya Grabbers	9	0	3	6	11	27
Northern Lights	8	0	2	6	9	23
Two Ply	8	1	0	7	6	26

Hyderabad triumph twice

HYDERABAD Cricket Club (HCC) countered their winning run in the Honda Cricket Tournament with victories over Sialkot XI and Farwaniya Cricket Club on Friday at the Salmiya grounds.

In both the matches HCC sailed to identical seven-wicket victories and totally outclassed their opponents.

In the morning game, Sialkot won the toss and batted first but could only put on 101 runs. Only Arshad offered any resistance to the tight HCC bowling by scoring 40 while Abid chipped in with 20.

Ronnie Jr, Masood and Sethi took two wickets each while Ashfaq Alphi and Tariq got one each.



Ronnie: five wickets

HCC started their innings badly, losing two early wickets but Sandeep (35) and Sethi (44 not out) saw them through to an easy victory.

In the afternoon match, HCC again lost the toss and were asked to field by Failaka, who ran into trouble as soon as they started their innings.

Failaka lost their first five wickets for only 40 runs with Ronnie Jr getting three wickets in his five overs. Saeed, batting with a lot of authority, tried to turn the game around but was bowled by Ayub for 41 and Failaka could only manage score 110 for eight in 25 overs.

HCC lost Ayub for 2 and Rodney for 15 but Sandeep and James hauled them out of trouble with a 75-run partnership. James was finally out for 38 while Sandeep remained unbeaten on 48 as HCC went past the target in the 18th over.



555
Stands out for taste

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

Lewis and Navratilova voted best athletes

MILAN, Italy, Dec 27, (AP): Carl Lewis and Martina Navratilova were picked as the best athletes of the 1980s in an international survey published today by Italy's largest sports daily newspaper, Gazzetta dello Sport of Milan.

The American sprinter edged Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona, Canadian ice-hockey ace Wayne Gretzky and world heavyweight boxing champion Mike

Tyson in the survey carried out among the world's largest newspapers and news agencies to name the best man and woman athlete of a decade.

The Czechoslovak-born tennis star preceded her West German rival Steffi Graf and East German track ace Marita Koch, who were tied in second place.

"I am very happy, because I did not believe I could have preceded such aces as

Maradona and Gretzky... but I am second to them in earnings," Lewis was quoted as saying by the Milan daily.

Lewis, 28, who won a record-equalling four gold medals in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, received 31.5 votes in the survey, compared with Maradona's 21.5 and Gretzky's 11. Tyson had 9 votes. Ivan Lendl, the No. 1 tennis player in the world, finished fifth with 5 votes.

Navratilova, 33, an eight-time Wimbledon champion, got 29 votes, compared with 24 of Graf and Koch.

East German swimmer Kristin Otto placed fourth, with 11 votes. "I am somewhat surprised of being the No. 1. It's a real Christmas gift... what I will miss most in the next years will be Chris Evert," Navratilova told the Milan daily.

Becker and Graf honoured

LONDON, Dec 27, (UPI): West German tennis stars Boris Becker and Steffi Graf, who captured five of the eight Grand Slam titles between them, were named today as UPI's International Sportsman and Sports-woman of the Year for 1989.

Becker collected 83 votes in a poll of European sports editors. American cyclist Greg Lemond, who returned from a near-fatal injury to score his second Tour de France triumph, was runner-up with 80, followed by American world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson (70).

Graf, who headed the poll in 1987 and placed second last year, was a runaway winner in the women's section with 108 votes. She finished ahead of Austrian Alpine skier Vreni Schneider (81) and US cyclist Jeannie Longo (70).

After a comparative slump in 1987, Becker came back with a vengeance this year receiving the accolade of world champion.

Becker's booming serve and acrobatic net-play proved a winning combination. The 21-year-old German regained the coveted Wimbledon crown he first won as a 17-year-old, and then took the US Open. Further success followed in his home land where he helped West Germany to a repeat victory over Sweden in the Davis Cup final.

Head-to-head Becker had a 14-3 record against top 10 players, showing the killer touch when it counted most.

Graf continued to dominate the women's circuit. Last year she won all four majors and an Olympic gold medal. This time round there was only a minor hiccup when, handicapped by cramps, she lost her French Open title to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain.

However, she again claimed the Australian, Wimbledon and US Open crowns and has lost just seven matches in the last three years. The brilliant 20-year-old was near invincible in 1989 winning 15 out of 17 tournaments and finishing with a match record of 83-2.

Lemond was named as the year's top athlete today by L'Equipe, the French sports daily newspaper.

Lemond received 254 points. Becker was second with 177 points. Graf was third with 162 points.

Alain Prost, the Frenchman who captured the world Formula One driving championship, was fifth. He also was the top French athlete in a separate poll ahead of multi-world record-holder and champion cyclist, Jeannie Longo. It was the third time in five years that Prost took the French title with Longo winning in 1987.

Ruud Gullit recovering

THE HAGUE, Dec 27, (Reuters): Ruud Gullit is recovering well from his third knee operation in less than eight months but it is unclear when he will play soccer again, his doctor said today.

"I checked the knee today and he is recovering very well, there is no infection (of liquids), there is no swelling, no pressure," said surgeon Marc Martens.

The Dutchman underwent surgery on December 1 by a team led by Martens at Louvain University Clinic in Belgium on a knee injury that has cast doubts over his future with European champions AC Milan and his appearance at the World Cup finals.

Pirelli Trophy

KIFCO meet Starline a Pirelli Trophy match at the N.C. Ground tomorrow afternoon while Evergreen take on Capri in the morning. The Pirelli Trophy was introduced three years ago by Shahid Maqbool under the patronage of G.P. Nicholson, the general manager of the Pirelli Construction Co. The event is being organised by the Kuwait Cricket League. Nicholson will be the guest of honour and inaugurate the tourney.

Aussies slam Pakistan

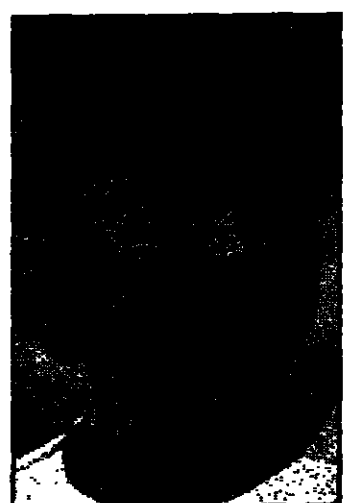
Visitors pay for poor fielding

PERTH, Australia, Dec 27, (Reuters): Pakistan, criticised by captain Imran Khan last week for poor fielding, were punished by Western Australia when they repeated their shortcomings in the opening match of their cricket tour today.

Western Australia took advantage of two dropped catches and an overall sluggish performance in the field by the Pakistanis to pile up 398 for nine on the first day of their three-day match.

Imran expressed his concern over Pakistan's fielding after their recent drawn Test series at home to India, saying he had never seen so many catches dropped by their fielders in what he described as "the worst display in my whole career."

All-rounder Imran is not playing against Western Australia, being rested with Wasim Akram and Javed Miandad ahead of the team's opening limited overs match in the World Series Cup, against Sri Lanka here on Sunday.



Miandad (left) and Wasim: rested

Recent Test debutant Tom Moody led the state team's run charge after they won the toss, hammering 93 off 108 balls in a timely reminder to the selectors after his omission from the Australian side for the start of the



World Series Cup. Moody put on 88 for the second wicket with Test discard Mike Veletta (51), while left-hander Wayne Andrews helped to sustain the tempo with a sparkling 80.

Uncapped leg-spinner Nadeem Ghouri was the most successful bowler with three for 94 off 18 overs.

Scoreboard

WESTERN AUSTRALIA first innings
J. Veletta c Younis b Aaqib... 23
M. Veletta c Younis b Aaqib... 51
T. Moody c Maqsood b Ghouri... 93
G. Wood b Ejaz b Younis... 1
W. Andrews c Shoaib b Maqsood... 80
T. Zoehrer b Maqsood... 33
T. Hogan not out... 41
K. Macleay c Ejaz b Ghouri... 27
S. Russell c Anwar b Ghouri... 18
C. Matthews st Younis b Aaqib... 1
P. Capes not out... 7
Extras (lb-9 w-1 nb-13)... 23
Total (nine wickets)... 398
Fall of wickets: 1-50 2-138 3-145 4-210 5-297 6-305 7-350 8-379 9-381
Bowling (to date): Aaqib Javed 19-5-50-1 (7nb), Waqar Younis 15-7-72-1, Maqsood Rana 15-2-57-2 (1w), Abdul Qadir 21-2-101-2 (6nb), Nadeem Ghouri 18-0-94-3, Shoaib Mohammad 2-0-15-0.
Pakistan: Anwar Malik, Mansoor Akhtar, Shoaib Mohammad, Saad Anwar, Ejaz Ahmed, Salim Younis, Abdul Qadir (captain), Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Nadeem Ghouri, Maqsood Rana.

Knicks overcome Heat

MIAMI, Dec 27, (AP): Charles Oakley had 19 points and 12 rebounds as the New York Knicks overcame Patrick Ewing's worst scoring night of the season to win their seventh consecutive game, 100-94 over the Miami Heat.

Ewing, third in the NBA at 29.0 points per game, was outscored 26-11 last night by centre Rony Seikaly of the Heat, which lost its fourth straight game, all at home. Ewing missed 14 of 18 shots.

Spurs 107, Hornets 82
Terry Cummings matched his season-high with 32 points and rookie David Robinson dominated inside as San Antonio won its sixth consecutive game by defeating Charlotte 107-82.

The Spurs have now won 10 of their last 11 games, while the Hornets fell to 4-20, the worst record in the NBA.

Pacers 98, Magic 90

Reggie Miller scored 22 of his 28 points in the second half, leading Indiana over Orlando 98-90.

Miller scored 12 points in the third period and 10 in the fourth for the Pacers, who are in a four-team battle for first place in the Central Division with Chicago, Atlanta and Detroit.

Sam Vincent scored 29 for Orlando and Terry Catledge had 20.

Nets 101, Bulls 94
Roy Hinson scored a season-high 31 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as New Jersey snapped a three-game losing streak with a 101-94 victory over Washington.

Washington lost its third straight and 10th in a row on the road. Bernard King had 27 points and Jeff Malone 24 for the Bulls.

Celtics 112, Clippers 111
Larry Bird scored 27 points,

including a pair of free throws with two-tenths of a second left as Boston beat the Los Angeles Clippers 112-111. Reggie Lewis had a season-high 28 off the bench as Boston extended its winning streak over Los Angeles to 11 games.
Bulls 112, Timberwolves 99
Michael Jordan scored 28 points and Scottie Pippen added 22 as Chicago defeated Minnesota 112-99. The Timberwolves' ninth consecutive loss and the Bulls' 10th victory in a row at home.

Results

San Antonio	107	Charlotte	82
Indiana	98	Orlando	90
New York	100	Miami	94
New Jersey	101	Washington	94
Boston	112	LA Clippers	111
Chicago	112	Minnesota	99
Milwaukee	103	Houston	96
Denver	114	Philadelphia	111
Phoenix	121	Portland	105
Utah	133	Golden State	118
LA Lakers	104	Sacramento	102

WBL advance to 2nd round

HAARLEM, Netherlands, Dec 27, (AP): The World Basketball League All Stars began the second leg of their European tour today by trouncing Auburn Montgomery 136-95 and advancing to the second round of the Haarlem Basketball Week.

Perry McDonald of the Illinois Express led the score for the All Stars with 24 points, while Worcester player Bryan Pollard received the Haarlem Player of the Game award in this western Dutch city.

The WBL, a professional basketball league limited to players 6-foot-5 and shorter, will face Dutch champions Commodore Noord, who beat Hapoel Tel Aviv 97-71.

The weekend Dutch event follows the All Stars' win at last weekend's Christmas tournament in Belgium.

Stage set for Dubai Powerboat Race

By Gail Seery



Mishaal (left) with co-driver Ananda Fernando.



THE second major race of the Dubai offshore powerboating season will start tomorrow morning from the Mina Sehiya harbour in Dubai. An impressive turnout of local entrants is expected along with a host of visitors from as far afield as America and Australia.

The Group A winner will walk away with a Mercedes and Dh 200,000, while a Dh 120,000 cash prize is at stake for the Group B winner.

Competitors were busy testing their boats on the relatively calm water of the Dubai Creek yesterday. Among these were Kuwait's Mishaal Al Jarallah, with his distinctive 32 foot Kourou Cougar catamaran. The Al Sha'ali Marine Tiger team was putting a squad of Tiger 24s through their paces, and were reporting no major problems. "I feel this will be one of the best races we have had here," enthused one competitor. The race is being sponsored by the Jebel Ali Free Zone which is "pushing very hard to help this race."

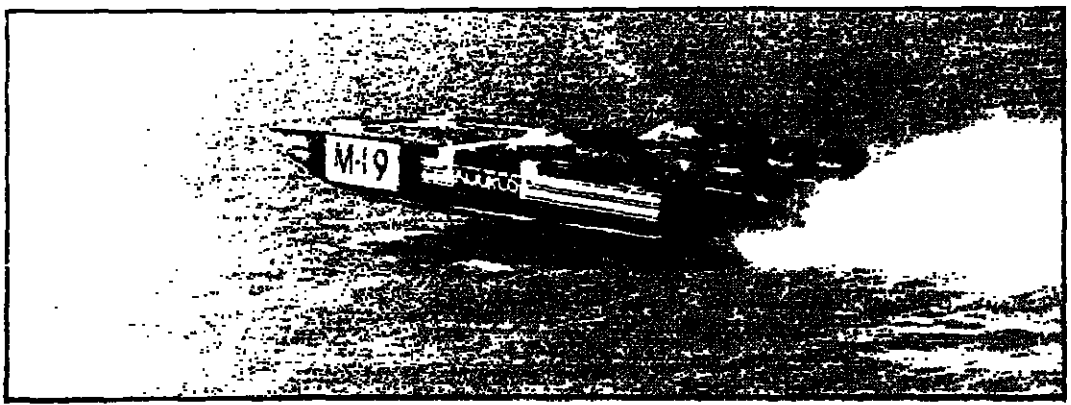
With all the Kuwait entrants either present in Dubai or on the UAE border, this race will see the largest Kuwait participation in an international event.

Although Sheikh Basel Al Sabah has not been fit to race since his accident in the Kuwait Sea Club Race in May, he has entered a boat in this event. The boat is something of a departure for Middle East powerboat racing, being a 29 foot Cigarette monohull, powered by a trio of modified 200 outboards, giving a power output of between 200-250hp apiece.

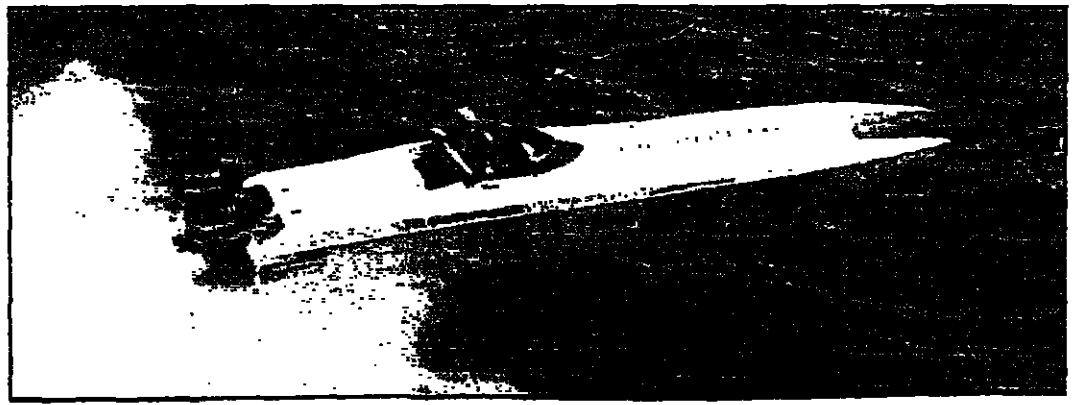
The monohull will be crewed by Sultan Al Sultan on throttles, Nabil Faraj on steering and will feature a third man, Badr Al Gabandi. Khalifa Al Qatami and Abdulla Al Badr have entered their Tigercat 24 foot, and were experiencing no problems in the lead up to the race.

This duo were recently nominated for a special sportsmanship award, and they will be travelling to the Boat Show in London in January to collect it.

The mood of competitors is very keen and a strong battle for first place in both groups is expected.



Kuwait's Mishaal Al Jarallah in action.



The Tiger team: facing no problems. (Photos by Gail Seery)



Marishiten sails down the Australian coastline. (Reuters wirephoto)

Drumbeat takes lead

SYDNEY, Dec 27, (Reuters): Alan Bond's Drumbeat, powered along by 35 knot winds, regained the lead in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race today and remained on target to beat the 14-year-old race record.

Ten-year-old Ragamuffin, first across the line in the 1988 race, overhauled Bond's state-of-the-art super-maxi overnight after Drumbeat missed out on gale-force winds by sailing further offshore than the rest of the fleet.

But the 25-metre Western Australian yacht found the stronger breezes this afternoon and accelerated past Ragamuffin and Japan's Marishiten to lead the Southern Hemisphere's most prestigious ocean race by eight miles.

At latest report, Drumbeat still has 383 miles of the 630-mile course to race with the record of two days 14 hours and 37 minutes set by US yacht Kialoa in 1975 in its sights.

The front runners, currently experiencing southwesterlies of 25 to 35 knots and waves of around five metres high, could encounter gale force winds of up to 45 knots as they head down the Victorian coast. But forecasters predict winds will moderate during the night.

Four yachts in the 126-strong fleet which set off from Sydney Harbour yesterday have withdrawn.

Austria cruise through

PERTH, Australia, Dec 27, (AP): Thomas Muster scored two victories today to lead Austria to a winning 2-0 lead over New Zealand in the first round of the Hopman Cup team tennis tournament.

Muster, on the comeback trail after suffering a number of injuries in an auto accident, clinched Austria a quarterfinal meeting with second-seeded Spain.

Muster scored a 6-3 6-2 victory over Kelly Evernden in the opening men's singles of the exhibition event, and then teamed with Barbara Paulus to defeat Evernden and Belinda Cordwell 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 in a one hour 47 minute doubles struggle.

The women's singles between Paulus and Cordwell was rendered irrelevant.
US pair John McEnroe and Pan Shriver are the favourites to win the \$250,000 event.

McEnroe and Shriver are not scheduled to play their first match until Saturday.
The exhibition event, organised by former Australian Davis Cup team member Paul McNamee, continues through Monday.

It is played on synthetic rebound ace courts, the same surface used for the Jan 15-29 Australian Open at Flinders Park in Melbourne.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, Dec 27, (Reuters): Results in the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament today: Third place playoff—South Korea beat Japan 1-0 (halftime 0-0). Seventh place play Chun (68th min). Malaysia beat Bangladesh 4-0 (1-0). Scores: Kamarulzaman Abdul Karim (32nd and 47th), Nur Saiful Zaini (45th), Tharmaraj Kaniah (56th). Malaysia play China tomorrow for fifth place.

Rally prologue

MARSEILLE, France, Dec 27, (Reuters): Frenchman Pierre Lartigue won the second prologue of the Paris-Dakar rally yesterday, testing his reflexes for the desert trials to come. Lartigue's Mitsubishi came off the 3.5 km track near the southern city of Marseille in four minutes and 23 seconds, beating last year's rally winner Ari Vatanen of Finland into third place.

Romanian club

THE HAGUE, Dec 27, (Reuters): The future of Dinamo Bucharest, the Romanian club linked with Nicolae Ceausescu's notorious Securitate, is uncertain following the overthrow and execution of the dictator, a Romanian soccer coach said. Mircea Petescu, a former player with Steaua Bucharest now coaching in the Netherlands, told the Dutch Trouw newspaper in an interview published today that public opinion could force the extinction of the police-run side.

FA inquiry

LONDON, Dec 27, (UPI): The English Football Association looks certain to stage an inquiry into yesterday's clash between London rivals Crystal Palace and Chelsea after a fan ran onto the pitch and tried to attack the referee.

New manager

BRUSSELS, Dec 27, (UPI): Belgian First Division soccer club Waregem named Rene Verheyen as its new manager to replace the sacked Urban Haesaert, a team official said today.

Bumper crowds

LONDON, Dec 27, (UPI): Bumper crowds at English Soccer League matches meant that Boxing Day could almost be renamed "Box Office Day" as far as the clubs are concerned. Over 413,000 fans watched first and second division matches yesterday, which meant a significant increase in attendances for the holiday fixtures for the second year running.

Fifa boss

ZURICH, Switzerland, Dec 27, (AP): President Joao Havelange of the international football federation, Fifa, has pledged that the soccer authority will make utmost efforts to shield the 1990 World Cup matches in Italy against rowdism.

Steaua midfielder

BELGRADE, Dec 27, (Reuters): Former Steaua Bucharest midfielder Miodrag Belodedici, who defected to Yugoslavia last January, hopes to play for Romania's soccer team again now that president Nicolae Ceausescu has been executed.

Harvey dies

MONTREAL, Dec 27, (Reuters): Doug Harvey, considered by many one of the greatest defencemen ever to play in the National Hockey League, died in hospital yesterday. He was 65.

Canada triumph

HELSINKI, Finland, Dec 27, (AP): David Chyzowski, an 18-year-old forward with the New York Islanders, scored the winning goal as Canada beat the United States 3-2 yesterday in their first game at the World Junior Championships.

NHL award

NEW YORK, Dec 27, (AP): Edmonton Oilers goalie Bill Ranford and Hartford Whalers centre Ron Francis were named co-winners of the NHL Player of the Week award yesterday.

Coach fired

NEW YORK, Dec 27, (AP): Joe Walton's seven-year term as coach of the New York Jets ended yesterday when Walton and his coaching staff were fired by new general manager Dick Steinberg.

IAC tourney set to start

THE organising committee of the Mitsubishi-IAC table tennis tournament made the draw for the junior entrants yesterday.

The committee has announced that the matches will begin at 9.00 am at the IAC badminton hall tomorrow and ask all those who are taking part to report at their appointed times.

Due to the overwhelming response for the junior events, the organising committee has decided to postpone the tournament for the seniors to Friday, January 19. They have also announced that because of rescheduling of the tournament they are willing to accept further entries for men, women and mixed double matches from all Indians till Jan 12. Entry forms and information can be obtained from Sharma (2644863), Jagdish (2433552), Flavian (2421252), Nair (5651418), Selhi (5639468). Entry forms are also available at the White Rose, Woodlands and the Star Supermarket, Abbasiya.

ARAB TIMES

Published by:
Dar Al-Seyassah

Editor-in-Chief
Ahmed Al Jarallah

Editorial Offices:
Airport Road, Shuwaikh.
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex:
22332 KT

Telephones:
4813566 (main lines)

Advertising:
4813207

Annual Subscriptions:
Individuals: KD 45/-
Companies and Official
Departments: KD 75/- (Air mail
charges extra for overseas
subscribers)
Tel: 4813149, 4813148

Handwritten signature or mark.